



Division BX9568
Section P8A2
1883-72

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL SESSIONS.

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SYNOD OF THE POTOMAC

OF THE

✓ REFORMED CHURCH

IN THE

UNITED STATES

SYNOD OF THE POTOMAC

IN GENERAL CONVENTION

AT

CHAMBERSBURG, PA., OCTOBER 1885.

PHILADELPHIA:

REFORMED CHURCH PUBLICATION BOARD,
907 ARCH STREET.

1885.

LEMMATA.

ARTICLE I. OPENING OF SYNOD.

- “ II. MEMBERS PRESENT.
- “ III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.
- “ IV. RULES OF ORDER.
- “ V. APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

1. *On Religious Services.*
2. *On Minutes of Synod.*
3. *On Overtures.*
4. *On Minutes of Classes.*
5. *On Examination, Licensure, and Ordination.*
6. *On the State of Religion and Statistical Reports.*
7. *On Education.*
8. *On Missions.*
9. *On Publication.*
10. *On Finance.*
11. *On Nominations.*
12. *On Ministerial Necrology.*

- “ VI. COMMUNICATIONS.
- “ VII. RELIGIOUS SERVICES.
- “ VIII. MINUTES OF SYNOD.
- “ IX. OVERTURES.
- “ X. MINUTES OF CLASSES.
- “ XI. EXAMINATION, LICENSURE, AND ORDINATION.
- “ XII. STATE OF RELIGION AND STATISTICAL REPORTS.
- “ XIII. EDUCATION.
- “ XIV. MISSIONS.
- “ XV. FINANCE.
- “ XVI. APPEALS AND REFERENCES.
- “ XVII. COMPLAINTS.
- “ XVIII. SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.
- “ XIX. CHURCH GOVERNMENT.
- “ XX. PUBLICATION.
- “ XXI. MISCELLANEOUS.
- “ XXII. MINISTERIAL NECROLOGY.
- “ XXIII. RESUMPTION AND CLOSE.
- “ XXIV. ADJOURNMENT.

Thirteenth Annual Meeting.

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

Of the Synod of the Potomac of the Reformed Church in the United States at its Annual Sessions, convened in General Convention, in Chambersburg, Pa., in the month of October, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-five. The Sessions commenced on the evening of the twentieth and continued until the evening of the twenty-sixth day of the month, inclusive, at 9.30 o'clock.

ARTICLE I.

OPENING OF SYNOD.

The Synod convened, in *General Convention*, on Tuesday evening, October 20th, A.D. 1885, at 7 o'clock, in the First or Zion's Reformed Church, of Chambersburg, Franklin County, Pa., agreeably to appointment of the last annual meeting, and was opened with appropriate religious services. The sessions of the Synod being held in the church of the retiring President, Rev. W. C. Cremer, the opening sermon, by his request, was preached by the Vice-President of the previous year, Rev. Wm. Rupp, who selected for his text Hebrews 5: 8, 9:—"Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered; and being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him." At the conclusion of the sermon the President called the Synod to order, and formally opened it with prayer. Whereupon the provisional roll was called, and a quorum was found to be in attendance.

ARTICLE II.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

I. FROM THE CLASSIS OF ZION.

Ministers :—Jacob O. Miller, D.D., Reinhart Smith, Aaron Wanner, D.D., Aaron Spangler, Israel S. Weisz, D.D., Frederick J. Sauerber and Alfred F. Dreisbach.

Elders :—Charles A. Shultz, Aaron Raab, Peter Dietz, John Stouch, George Hollinger and Benjamin Seitz.

II. FROM THE CLASSIS OF MARYLAND.

Ministers :—Joseph W. Santee, D.D., Edmund R. Eschbach, D.D., William Goodrich, Simon S. Miller, J. Spangler Kieffer, D.D., Joel T. Rossiter, T. Franklin Hoffmeier, Ambrose C. Geary, William Rupp, Conrad Clever, Silas M. Hench, Charles F. Soutag, Adam S. Weber, E. Ranson Deatrick, Henry Ditzler, Leighton G. Kremer, Marion L. Firor, Louis F. Zinkhan, Abraham B. Stoner, Anthony Shulenberger, Andrew J. Heller, Nehemiah H. Skyles and Henry W. Hoffmeier.

Elders :—Joseph Cronise, Daniel B. Seibert, Oliver H. Snyder, Peter W. Shafer, William A. Hagerman, Perry G. Smith, John L. Reifsneider, Francis Warner, J. Taylor Motter, Joshua Koutz, Goldsborough S. Griffith, Michael Zimmerman, Ephraim I. Zimmerman, S. Fenton Hargett, Abram Mickley and Greenbury J. G. House.

III. FROM THE CLASSIS OF MERCERSBURG.

Ministers :—William M. Deatrick, Jacob Hassler, William C. Cremer, Franklin F. Bahner, William H. Herbert, Cyrus Cort, George W. Aughbaugh, D.D., Jairus A. Wickert, J. William Knappenberger, P. Allison Long, Isaac M. Motter, George B. Russell, D.D., and Jonas B. Shontz.

Elders :—Elias Summer, Jacob Hoffhine, Casper Metz, Casper Wicke, Augustus L. Wertz, Cyrus T. Keefer, Isaac H. Keefer, Daniel M. B. Shannon, George Dice, Samuel Hoeflich, David F. Daihl and Henry Spangler.

IV. FROM THE CLASSIS OF VIRGINIA.

Ministers :—John A. Hoffheins, Barton R. Carnahan, Samuel L. Whitmore, Elias Welty, M. D., George A. Whitmore, Benjamin F. Bausmann and Alpha K. Kline.

Elders :—Henry J. Seibert, John M. Nicely and Samuel Summey.

V. FROM THE CLASSIS OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Rev. Jacob C. Clapp, D.D.

VI. FROM THE CLASSIS OF GETTYSBURG.

Ministers :—Moses Kieffer, D.D., David N. Dittmar, Joshua H. Derr, John C. Bowman, Thomas J. Barkley, Henry H. Sangree, John Kretzing and Henry Hilbush.

Elders :—Henry Wirt, John Feeser, Isaac F. Brinkerhoff and Henry Lady.

VII. FROM THE CLASSIS OF CARLISLE.

Ministers :—William R. H. Deatrich, Francis S. Lindaman, J. Marion Mickly, Amos H. Kremer, D.D., Milton H. Groh, U. Henry Heilman and George E. Addams.

Elders :—Francis M. McKeehan, Daniel Sheaffer, Samuel Crist, John B. Shulenberger, Henry Wetzel, George Hoobaugh and John Shambbaugh.

VIII. FROM THE CLASSIS OF JUNIATA.

Ministers :—Ellis N. Kremer, William I. Stewart, J. David Miller, Isaac N. Peightel, Calvin S. Slagle, Andrew T. G. Apple, Edgar S. Hassler, F. Wilson Brown, Neri F. Peters, Calvin U. Heilman, Diodorus S. Dieffenbacher, Cyrus J. Musser, Christian W. Summey, Samuel C. Long and Albert G. Dole.

Elders :—Job M. Shoemaker, John D. Aurandt, Henry Beckley, Isaac K. Little, Joshua L. Reifsneider, Henry C. Ritchey, Andrew Dibert, James Smith and David Aurandt.

IX. FROM THE CLASSIS OF SAN FRANCISCO.

None present.

X. FROM THE CLASSIS OF PORTLAND-OREGON.

None present.

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT.

From the Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States.—Revs. J. M. Titzel, D.D., S. B. Shafer, H. T. Spangler, W. E. Hoy, T. S. Johnston, D.D., C. G. Fisher, G. Wolff, D.D., P. S. Davis, D.D., and T. Appel, D.D.

From the Synod of Ohio.—Rev. J. W. Rauch.

MINISTERS OF OTHER CHURCHES.

The presence of the Revs. Dr. Pomeroy, Dr. Crawford, Dr. Lane and Dr. Edgar of the Presbyterian Church, M. L. Ganoe of the Methodist Church, A. H. Shertz, A. S. Hartman, and J. A. Hartman of the Lutheran Church, and J. P. Miller of the United Brethren Church, was announced.

ARTICLE III.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Rev. J. S. Kieffer, *President*, Hagerstown, Md.

Elder H. Wirt, *Vice-President*, Hanover, Pa.

Rev. Wm. M. Deatrick is *Stated Clerk*, Mercersburg, Pa.

Rev. J. David Miller, *Corresponding Secretary*, Martinsburg, Pa.

Rev. I. S. Weisz, *Reading Clerk*, York, Pa.

Elder M. E. Doll, *Treasurer*, Frederick, Md.

ARTICLE IV.

RULES OF ORDER.

The reading of the Synod's Rules of Order was dispensed with, and the limits constituting the *Bar of the House* were defined.

The special committee, to whom the Rules of Order adopted by the General Synod of Baltimore had been referred for modification by the Synod at Hanover last year, reported progress and was continued. Rev. W. Goodrich was substituted on the committee in place of the member, who had removed into the bounds of another Synod.

The following hours were fixed for the opening and closing of the sessions of the Synod:

The morning sessions to open at 9½ and close at 11½ o'clock; the afternoon sessions to begin at 2 and end at 4½ o'clock; and the evening sessions for service, or business, to commence at 7 o'clock.

ARTICLE V.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

The President appointed the following Standing Committees, to wit: *Religious Services*—Revs. W. C. Cremer, W. Goodrich, W. R. H. Deatrich, A. Wanner, and Elders I. H. Keefer, C. A. Shultz and J. Cronise.

Minutes of Synod—Revs. W. M. Deatrick, J. C. Clapp, A. C. Geary, A. F. Driesbach and Elders Joshua L. Reifsneider, John L. Reifsneider and J. Hoffhine.

Overtures—Revs. I. S. Weisz, J. T. Rossiter, B. R. Carnahan, D. N. Dittmar, and Elders H. J. Seibert, J. Feeser and I. K. Little.

Minutes of Classes—Revs. T. F. Hoffmeier, S. L. Whitmore, T. J. Barkley, M. H. Groh, and Elders O. H. Snyder, F. M. McKeehan and H. Beckley.

Examination, Licensure and Ordination—Revs. M. Kieffer, J. H. Derr, J. Hessler, F. J. Sauerber, and Elders J. T. Motter, H. Wirt and J. M. Shoemaker.

State of Religion and Statistics—Revs. W. Rupp, C. U. Heilman, C. J. Musser, J. M. Mickly, and Elders I. F. Brinkerhoff, J. B. Shulenberger and J. D. Aurandt.

Education—Revs. J. O. Miller, S. S. Miller, F. F. Bahner, J. C. Bowman and Elders P. W. Shafer, G. Hollinger and C. T. Keefer.

Missions—Revs. E. N. Kremer, G. W. Aughinbaugh, W. I. Stewart, F. S. Lindaman, and Elders W. A. Hagerman, G. Hoobaugh and J. Smith.

Publication—Revs. C. U. Heilman, C. Clever, U. H. Heilman, J. D. Miller, and Elders S. Hoeflich, J. Stouch and J. Koutz.

Finance—Revs. C. Cort, B. F. Bausmann, G. A. Whitmore, D. S. Dieffenbacher, and Elders S. Crist, E. Summer and J. M. Nicely.

Nominations—Revs. E. R. Eschbach, A. H. Kremer, W. H. Herbert, A. S. Weber, and Elders G. S. Griffith, D. B. Seibert and A. Dibert.

Ministerial Necrology—Revs. J. A. Hoffheins, S. M. Hench, M. L. Firor, A. Spangler, and Elders A. Raab, D. M. B. Shannon and P. G. Smith.

ARTICLE VI.

COMMUNICATIONS.

1. The Minutes of the Classes of Zion, Maryland, Mercersburg, Virginia, North Carolina, Gettysburg, Carlisle, Juniata, San Francisco, and Portland-Oregon were received and referred to the Standing Committee on Minutes of Classes for examination, except the Reports on the State of Religion and the Statistical Tables, which were referred to the Standing Committee on those subjects.

2. The Annual Report of the Treasurer of Synod was presented and read, and then referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, for the purpose of being audited.

3. The Annual Reports of the Board of Education, the Board of Regents of Mercersburg College, the Board of Visitors of the Theological Seminary at Lancaster, Pa., and the Board of Trustees of the same institution were laid before the Synod and read, and then referred to the Standing Committee on Education for further consideration.

4. The Annual Reports of the Board of Missions, the Superintendent of Missions and the Treasurer of the Tri-Synodic Board of Missions were presented to the Synod, and severally referred to the Standing Committee on Missions for further notice.

5. The Annual Report of the Publication Board of the Reformed Church was laid before the Synod, and read, after which it was referred to the Standing Committee on Publication for consideration.

6. The Annual Reports of the Board of Trustees of Synod and the Sunday-school Board were presented to the Synod, read, and disposed of without reference. They will be found in their proper places.

7. A number of communications were received and referred to the Standing Committee on Overtures.

ARTICLE VII.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

The Synod, during its sessions, observed the following religious services, to wit:

1. The sessions of each day were severally opened and closed with appropriate religious services.

2. The Standing Committee on Religious Services reported as follows, which was received and adopted, namely:

Your Committee on Religious Services begs leave to report the following appointments:

ZION'S REFORMED CHURCH.

Wednesday Evening.—Sermon by Rev. J. C. Clapp, and Liturgical Services by Revs. A. S. Weber and B. F. Bausmann.

Thursday Evening.—Sunday-school Anniversary. Topics proposed and speakers assigned by the Sunday-school Board.

Friday Evening.—Meeting in the interests of the educational institutions of the Church, according to the programme adopted by the Board of Education.

Saturday Afternoon.—Preparatory Services; Sermon by Rev. J. W. Santee; and Liturgical Services by Revs. A. J. Heller and N. H. Skyles.

Saturday Evening.—Missionary Anniversary; Addresses by Revs. J. S. Kieffer, W. I. Stewart, W. E. Hoy, T. J. Barkley and C. U. Heilman.

Sunday Morning.—Prayer Meeting at 10 o'clock, conducted by Rev. M. Kieffer; Communion Services at 11 o'clock; Sermon by Rev. A. H. Kremer; and Liturgical and Altar Services by Rev. J. C. Bowman, W. M. Deatrick, W. I. Stewart and I. S. Weisz.

Sunday Afternoon.—Sunday-school Services at 2:30 o'clock; Addresses by Revs. A. T. G. Apple, S. M. Hench and Elder F. M. McKeehan.

Sunday Evening.—Sermon by Rev. W. E. Hoy; and Liturgical Services by Revs. S. S. Miller and U. H. Heilman.

OTHER CHURCHES.

St. John's Reformed Church.—Sunday morning, sermon by Rev. A. F. Dreisbach. Sunday evening, sermon by Rev. R. Smith.

Falling Spring Presbyterian Church.—Sunday morning, Rev. J. S. Kieffer. Sunday evening, Rev. C. U. Heilman.

Central Presbyterian Church.—Sunday morning, Rev. E. R. Eschbach. Sunday evening, Rev. J. C. Bowman.

First Lutheran Church.—Sunday morning, Rev. C. Clever. Sunday evening, Rev. D. S. Dieffenbacher.

Methodist Church.—Sunday evening, Rev. D. N. Dittmar.

First United Brethren Church.—Sunday evening, Rev. F. J. Sauerber.

African Methodist Church.—Sunday evening, Rev. G. E. Addams.

Fayetteville Reformed Church.—Rev. C. W. Summey.

Fayetteville Lutheran Church.—Rev. J. D. Miller.

Greencastle Reformed Church.—Rev. A. J. Heller.

Greencastle Lutheran Church.—Rev. J. Kretzing.

Greencastle Presbyterian Church.—Rev. H. Ditzler.

Middlebury Reformed Church.—Rev. T. J. Barkley.

Newburg Reformed Church.—Rev. A. Shulenberger.

Heidelberg Reformed Church, near Marion.—Revs. J. Hassler, W. H. Herbert and A. Wanner.

Trinity Reformed Church of Waynesboro'.—Rev. J. C. Clapp.

Reformed Church of St. Thomas.—Rev. W. E. Hoy.

Mercersburg Reformed Church.—Revs. M. L. Firor, S. L. Whitmore, S. C. Long and E. R. Deatrick.

Respectfully submitted,

W. C. CREMER, *Chairman.*

ARTICLE VIII.

MINUTES OF SYNOD.

The reading of the Minutes of the last Annual Meeting publicly before the Synod was dispensed with, and the printed "Acts and Proceedings" of the last annual sessions of the Synod were referred to the Standing Committee on Minutes of Synod, to report such items of business as properly claimed the consideration of the present meeting of the Synod. During the session of Wednesday afternoon this committee presented its report, which was received, considered item by item, adopted as a whole, and is as follows :

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MINUTES OF SYNOD.

To the Reverend Synod of the Potomac :

Your Committee, to whom were referred the printed Minutes of the Synod of last year for examination, after a careful inspection of them, begs leave to report the following items, as properly claiming the attention of the present sessions of the Synod, namely :

Item 1, page 6. The usual Standing Committee on Ministerial Necrology is appointed, whose duty it is to report to the present meeting of the Synod; of which committee the Rev. I. S. Weisz is chairman.

Item 2, page 10. A special committee is appointed, to whom the new Rules of Order, adopted by the General Synod of Baltimore, are referred for careful examination and necessary modifications, before they are adopted by the Synod, whose duty it is to report to this meeting of the Synod; of which committee the Rev. William M. Deatruck is chairman.

Item 3, page 11. One-half of the amount, being \$172.50, assessed by the General Synod of Baltimore upon this Synod for contingent expenses of said Synod, is referred to this annual meeting for assessment.

Item 4, page 14. The overture of the Winchester congregation, pertaining to damage done to its church building during the civil war, is referred to the Board of Missions.

Item 5, page 23. The Classes are urged to take measures to increase their contributions for beneficiary education, and to secure more students for the ministry.

Item 6, page 23. Certain Classes, that have hitherto neglected or refused to co-operate with the Board of Education, as it regards educating young men for the ministry, are again requested and urged to comply with the instructions of the Synod in the matter.

Item 7, page 24. A committee is appointed to attend to the work of raising the endowment proposed for the Theological Seminary at Lancaster, Pa., of which the Rev. E. R. Eschbach is chairman and superintendent.

Item 8, page 25. Three resolutions are adopted, proposing a plan to provide for meeting the indebtedness of Mercersburg College.

Item 9, page 26. The Board of Education is instructed to prepare a programme of subjects pertaining to the educational interests of the Church, select speakers for the discussion of the same, and Friday evening of the sessions of this Synod is set apart for this purpose, the President of the Board to preside on the occasion.

Item 10, page 26. It becomes necessary to nominate for election by the Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States, three members of the Board of Visitors, and six members also of the Board of Trustees of the Theological Seminary at Lancaster, Pa., for the term of one year.

Item 11, page 26. It becomes the duty of the Synod to fill by election the vacancies, that will take place in the Board of Education, at the close of the present sessions of the Synod, of those whose term of service will then expire.

Item 12, page 26. It will be necessary for the Synod to fill by election the

vacancies that are about to occur in the Board of Regents of Mercersburg College, of the members whose term of office will expire during the present month.

Item 13, page 45. Certain Classes are reported delinquent in the payment of their apportionments for the Washington Mission Chapel, made in 1878, and said Classes are solemnly reminded of their obligations in the premises.

Item 14, page 45. The Classes are earnestly requested to put forth increased efforts to replenish the treasury of the precious and heaven-ordained work of Home Missions.

Item 15, page 46. The Classes are most heartily urged to take such measures as may be necessary to secure such an inflow of funds into the treasury of Foreign Missions, as may be required to maintain the cause in full and growing efficiency.

Item 16, page 46. The sum, apportioned the previous year for Roanoke Mission, is transferred to the Board of Home Missions, to be used for missions in North Carolina, and for the relief of the San Francisco Church.

Item 17, page 47. It becomes necessary to fill by election the vacancies that will occur in the Synodic Board of Missions, of those whose terms of service expire during the present sessions of the Synod.

Item 18, page 48. Certain arrearages are reported on apportionments for Concord and Roanoke Mission Chapels, and also on assessments for Contingent Fund and for Mercersburg College.

Item 19, page 48. Assessments for Contingent Fund of the General Synod.

Item 20, page 49. Assessments are made for Contingent Fund of the Synod.

Item 21, page 49. Assessments are made for Mercersburg College.

Item 22, page 49. Apportionments are made for the Theological Seminary.

Item 23, page 49. Apportionments are made for Harbor Missions.

Item 24, page 49. Apportionments are made for Home Missions.

Item 25, page 49. It will be necessary to elect a member of Synod's Board of Trustees to fill the place of Rev. J. T. Rossiter, whose term of office will expire on the first of next January, agreeably to the Charter.

Item 26, page 50. It becomes necessary to fill by election the vacancy in the Sunday-school Board, by the expiration of the term of service of Rev. W. K. Zieber, which takes place at the present sessions of Synod.

Item 27, page 51. The ratio of representation, adopted by the Synod, is sent down to the Classes for their concurrence or non-concurrence.

Item 28, page 55. The Stated Clerk is instructed to have two thousand copies of the Acts and Proceedings of the last annual meeting of the Synod published.

Item 29, page 58. The Classes are directed to request their congregations to lift collections for the benefit of the Society for the Relief of Ministers and their Widows, on or about the third Sunday of last June, or contribute to the funds of the society in some other proper manner.

Item 30, page 58. Certain resolutions on the subject of divorce are referred for consideration to a special committee, of which Rev. C. Cort is chairman, with instructions to report to the present meeting of the Synod.

Item 31. It will be necessary to assess the \$300.00 promised to Mercersburg College for the present Synodical year, as pledged by the Synod at Waynesboro in 1881.

Respectfully submitted,
W. M. M. DEATRICK, *Chairman.*

For the action of Synod on item 1, see Article XXII., Ministerial Necrology; on item 2, see Article IV., Rules of Order; items 3 and 31 were referred to the Standing Committee on Finance to be assessed; the attention of the Tri-Synodic Board of Missions was earnestly called anew to the matter contained in item 4; items 5, 6, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 23, 27 and 29 were severally referred to the Standing Committee on Minutes of Classes, to ascertain whether or not the Classes had attended to their duty; on items 7, 8 and 9, see Article XIII., Education; items 10,

11, 12, 17, 25 and 26 were severally referred to the Standing Committee on Nominations, to make the required nominations; on items 19, 20, 21 and 22, see Article XV., Finance; on item 24, see Article XIV., Missions; on item 28, see Article XX., Publications; and on item 30, see Article XXI., Miscellaneous.

ARTICLE IX.

OVERTURES.

The Standing Committee on Overtures presented its report at intervals, which was received and acted on item by item, subsequently adopted as a whole, and is as follows:

The Committee on Overtures begs leave to report the following papers as claiming the attention of the Synod:

Item 1. An appeal by the president and six members of the Joint Consistory of the Huntingdon charge from the decision of the Juniata Classis in confirming a call extended to the Rev. C. J. Musser, by a meeting of the Joint Consistory of said charge.

Item 2. A complaint by the same persons against the action of the Juniata Classis in installing the Rev. C. J. Musser as pastor of the Huntingdon charge, after an appeal had been taken from the decision of said Classis in confirming the call to said pastor-elect.

Item 3. The Annual Report of the Board of Managers of Bethany Orphans' Home, at Womelsdorf, Pa.

Item 4. The Annual Report of the Board of Directors of St. Paul's Orphans' Home, at Butler, Pa.

Item 5. A communication from the Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States, informing this Synod that it had elected the individuals which this Synod had nominated, one year ago, for the Boards of Visitors and Trustees of the Theological Seminary at Lancaster, Pa., and also stating that it had chosen the Rev. A. C. Whitmer to the office of Superintendent of Missions of the tri-synodic arrangement for carrying on the home mission work.

Item 6. A letter from the same Synod, communicating the action of said Synod in reference to the annual deficit in the revenues of the Theological Seminary, to meet the regular expenditures of said institution, and inviting this Synod to accept an apportionment of \$300 towards meeting such deficit.

Item 7. A communication from the Secretary of the Sabbath Observance Committee of the Synod of Pennsylvania of the Presbyterian Church, in which two requests are made of this Synod: 1st. That it appoint a Committee upon Sabbath Observance, with which the Committee of the Presbyterian Synod may correspond upon this subject; and, 2d, that this Synod appoint a committee of at least two members to meet the Presbyterian Committee in Harrisburg, Pa., on the first Wednesday of May next, for the purpose of conferring together and reaching conclusions, to be reported to the respective Synods for their approval and adoption.

Respectfully submitted,

I. S. WEISZ, *Chairman.*

For the action of Synod on items 1 and 2, see Article XVI., Appeals and References; on items 3, 4 and 7, see Article XXI., Miscellaneous; item 5 was adopted, and on item 6 see Article XIII., Education.

ARTICLE X.

MINUTES OF CLASSES.

The Standing Committee on the Minutes of the Classes presented its report, during the session of Saturday forenoon, which was disposed of item by item, adopted as a whole, and is as follows:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MINUTES OF CLASSES.

To the Reverend Synod of the Potomac:

Your Committee on the Minutes of the Classes respectfully report. There have been placed in our hands the Minutes of all the Classes for the past year. From them the following items are obtained:

I. IRREGULARITIES.

1. Virginia Classis held an adjourned meeting of the sessions of 1884 at a time subsequent to the date fixed for the annual meeting of 1885.
2. Juniata Classis fails to record the date of the call for a special meeting, held in Altoona, Pa., June 13th, 1885.
3. The same Classis fails to state definitely the place, and also omits the year for holding its next annual meeting.
4. The same Classis received the Rev. F. W. Brown from the Iowa Classis, without having before it his certificate of dismission.
5. Portland-Oregon Classis received the Rev. H. A. Schwichtenberg as a member provisionally, in anticipation of his receiving a certificate of dismission from the Missouri Classis, and also confirmed a call to him from one of its pastoral charges.
6. The same Classis fails to give the hour of its next annual meeting.
7. San Francisco Classis received the Rev. L. D. Leberman from Goshenhoppen Classis, without first having a quorum.

II. REQUESTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

8. San Francisco Classis requests the Synod to excuse its irregularity, as above reported.
9. Zion's Classis respectfully requests the Synod to consider the question of affording relief to superannuated and disabled ministers, so as to furnish them sufficient to live, if in need, as a reward of a life devoted to the Master's service, and not as a mere charity.
10. Gettysburg Classis requests the Synod to add a column to its statistical tables, in which shall be published all legacies or benevolent contributions, amounting to \$100 and upwards, from any member or members of the Church towards the support of our literary or benevolent institutions.

III. APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS.

11. Rev. H. F. Long, in behalf of six of the officers of the McConnelstown congregation, appeals from the action of the Juniata Classis, in confirming the call of the Huntingdon charge to the Rev. C. J. Musser. Revs. E. N. Kremer, C. U. Heilman and I. N. Peightel are appointed to defend the action of the Classis before the Synod, in case the appeal is prosecuted.

IV. SUBJECTS REFERRED TO THE CLASSES.

12. *Beneficiary Education.* All the Classes took favorable action on this subject.
13. With reference to carrying on their beneficiary operations through the Synod's Board of Education, no action was taken by the Classes of Zion and Portland-Oregon. Gettysburg, Virginia and San Francisco Classes took favorable action; and unfavorable action was taken by the North Carolina Classis, which says that it prefers to have charge of its own students.
14. *Home Missions.* All the Classes took favorable action on the subject of Home Missions.
15. *Foreign Missions.* Favorable action was taken on this subject by all the Classes, except Virginia, San Francisco and Portland-Oregon Classes, which failed to take any action.
16. *Harbor Missions.* All the Classes assumed their apportionments for this object, except Carlisle Classis, which, for certain reasons, declined to do so.
17. *Orphans' Homes.* Favorable action was taken by the Classes of Zion, Maryland, North Carolina, Gettysburg, Carlisle and Juniata. No action was taken by Mercersburg, Virginia, San Francisco and Portland-Oregon Classes.

18. *Roanoke Apportionment.* Mercersburg, Maryland and Gettysburg Classes took favorable notice; the remaining Classes took no action.

19. *Ministerial Relief.* All the Classes took favorable action.

20. *Delinquents noted in item 18 of Report on Minutes of Synod.*

No action seems to have been taken by any of those Classes.

21. *Arrearages on Washington Mission Chapel Apportionment.*

Zion's and Carlisle Classes readopt their apportionments. Virginia Classis passed the following action: *Resolved*, That the Synod is laboring under an error in charging this Classis with a delinquency of \$32.00 in favor of Washington Mission Fund, this Classis having paid the full apportionment of \$50.00 to Rev. E. R. Eschbach, for which his voucher is held, dated May 26, 1880.

22. *Ratio of Representation.* Maryland, Mercersburg, Virginia, North Carolina, Gettysburg, Carlisle and Juniata Classes concurred in the ratio of representation adopted by the Synod at the last annual meeting, and sent down for concurrence or non-concurrence to the Classes. Zion's, San Francisco and Portland-Oregon Classes failed to take action on the item.

V. LICENSED, ORDAINED, RECEIVED AND DISMISSED.

23. Maryland Classis received the licentiate Henry Ditzler from the Gettysburg Classis, and ordained him to the Gospel Ministry; received the Rev. Abraham B. Stoner from the Philadelphia Classis; dismissed the Rev. George B. Resser to the Lebanon Classis, and the Rev. P. Allison Long to the Mercersburg Classis.

24. Mercersburg Classis revoked the licensure of John M. North, and received the Rev. Jeriah S. Shade from the Heidelberg Classis, and the Rev. P. Allison Long from the Maryland Classis.

25. Virginia Classis received the Rev. Alpha K. Kline from the Clarion Classis; dismissed the Revs. Cyrus J. Musser and Christian W. Summey to the Juniata Classis; and erased the name of the Rev. Lawrence M. Hensell from its roll.

26. Gettysburg Classis licensed Henry Ditzler, and dismissed him to the Maryland Classis.

27. Juniata Classis received the licentiate Neri F. Peters from the Tiffin Classis, and ordained him to the Holy Ministry; received Revs. F. Wilson Brown and Samuel C. Long from the Iowa Classis, Rev. Calvin U. Heilman from the Somerset Classis, Rev. Diodorus S. Dieffenbacher from the Clarion Classis, and Revs. Cyrus J. Musser and Christian W. Summey from the Virginia Classis; dismissed the Rev. Eusebius H. Dieffenbacher to the Westmoreland Classis, the Rev. William M. Andrews to the Clarion Classis, the Rev. Cyrus H. Reiter to the Somerset Classis, and the Rev. John M. Titzel, D. D., to the Lancaster Classis of the Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States.

28. San Francisco Classis received the Rev. Lewis D. Leberman from the Goshenhoppen Classis, and erased the name of the Rev. Charles Hartman from its roll.

29. The Portland-Oregon Classis received the Rev. Henry A. Schwichtenberg from the Missouri Classis.

VI. PLACES AND TIMES OF THE NEXT ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE CLASSES.

30. Zion's Classis will meet in Stoverstown, York County, Pa., May 28, A.D. 1886, at 7:30 o'clock, P. M. Rev. A. Wanner, *President*; Rev. F. J. Sauerber, *Stated Clerk*; and Elder C. A. Shultz, *Treasurer*.

31. Maryland Classis will meet in Boonsboro', Washington County, Md., May 27, A.D. 1886, at 7:30 o'clock, P.M. Rev. W. Rupp, *President*; and Rev. S. S. Miller, *Stated Clerk and Treasurer*.

32. Mercersburg Classis will meet in Upton, Franklin County, Pa., May 13, A.D. 1886, at 7:30 o'clock, P.M. Rev. C. Cort, *President*; and Rev. W. M. Deatrick, *Stated Clerk and Treasurer*.

33. Virginia Classis will meet in Timberville, Rockingham County, Va., May 13, A.D. 1886, at 7:30 o'clock, P.M. Rev. E. Welty, *President*; Rev. B. R. Carnahan, *Stated Clerk*; and Rev. J. A. Hoffheins, *Treasurer*.

34. North Carolina Classis will meet in St. Luke's Church of the Central Rowan Charge, Rowan County, N. C., May 5, A.D. 1886, at 11 o'clock A.M. Rev. P. M. Trexler, *President*; Rev. G. W. Welker, *Stated Clerk*; and Rev. T. Long, *Treasurer*.

35. Gettysburg Classis will meet in Sherman's Church, York County, Pa., May 27, A.D. 1886, at 7:30 o'clock P.M. Rev. D. U. Wolff, *President*; Rev. W. K. Zieber, *Stated Clerk*; and Elder H. J. Myers, *Treasurer*.

36. Carlisle Classis will meet in the Reformed Church of Buffalo, Perry County, Pa., June 3, A.D. 1886, at 7:30 o'clock P.M. Rev. F. S. Lindaman, *President*; Rev. J. M. Mickly, *Stated Clerk*; and Rev. U. H. Ilcilman, *Treasurer*.

37. Juniata Classis will meet in Alexandria, Huntington Co., Pa., May 13, A.D. 1886, at 7:30 o'clock P.M. Rev. W. I. Stewart, *President*; Rev. J. D. Miller, *Stated Clerk*; and Rev. F. A. Rupley, *Treasurer*.

38. San Francisco Classis will meet in Napa, Napa County, Cal., June 22, A.D. 1886, at 8 o'clock, P.M. Rev. L. D. Leberman, *President*; Rev. C. F. Waldecker, *Stated Clerk*; and Elder H. Baker, *Treasurer*.

38. Portland-Oregon Classis will meet in Salem, Oregon, June 17, A.D. 1866. Rev. J. Lange, *President*; Rev. G. Graedel, *Stated Clerk*; and Elder F. Koellermeyer, *Treasurer*.

Respectfully submitted,

T. F. HOFFMEIER, *Chairman*.

Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23 and 25 to 39, inclusive, were severally adopted. The request in item 8 was granted, and the Classis was excused under the circumstances. Item 9 was referred to a special committee, for whose report see Article XXI., Miscellaneous. The Synod declined to grant the request contained in item 10. Item 11 was referred to a special committee, for whose report see Article XVI., Appeals and References. Carlisle Classis, under item 16, was requested anew to comply with the wishes of Synod in the case, and the item was then adopted. Item 20 was adopted, and the attention of the delinquent Classes earnestly called to the matter. Item 22 was adopted, and the ratio of representation proposed for a delegated Synod was declared to be constitutionally adopted. Mercersburg Classis, under item 24, was requested to reconsider its action revoking the licensure of John M. North.

ARTICLE XI.

EXAMINATION, LICENSURE AND ORDINATION.

The Standing Committee on Examination, Licensure and Ordination reported as follows, which was received and adopted, to wit:

The Committee on Examination, etc., would report that no applications for examination were referred to us.

Respectfully submitted,

M. KIEFFER, *Chairman*.

ARTICLE XII.

STATE OF RELIGION AND STATISTICAL REPORTS.

The Standing Committee on the State of Religion and Statistical Reports presented its report to the Synod, during the session of Monday evening, which was received and adopted, and is as follows, to wit:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE STATE OF RELIGION AND MORALS.

To the Reverend Synod of the Potowmac :

FATHERS AND BRETHREN :—From the reports placed in our hands we learn that, during the past Synodical year, the lives of all our ministers have been graciously preserved, and that, with a few slight exceptions, all have been permitted to discharge their ministerial and pastoral functions without interruption. For this favor of Divine providence, it becomes us devoutly to give thanks to our Father in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The reports of the Classes all testify that the usual ministrations of the Gospel have been productive of the usual results. While nothing has occurred of an extraordinary or phenomenal character, there has been a constant and steady growth in the number of our membership, and in true Christian piety and devotion to the interests of the kingdom of God on the part of our members.

All the reports state that the attendance on public worship is generally good. While it is admitted that there are some who neglect this duty, as will always be the case, yet we have reason to be gratified with the measure of interest in the public services of the sanctuary manifested by our people.

The Holy Sacraments are received and appreciated as divinely appointed means of grace. This is manifest in the first place from the large number of infant baptisms reported. There are few families in connection with our Church, whose children are not early brought by the sacrament of baptism into the covenant of grace, and thus consecrated to the service of the Triune God. The increasing appreciation of the divine ordinances is further manifest also from the large number of communicants at the Lord's table, though there are still too many who neglect this precious privilege.

Our time-honored system of catechetical instruction still maintains itself in the undiminished affection and favor of our pastors and people, and has again yielded its fruit in large additions to the confirmed membership of our churches.

The interest of the Sunday-school and of the religious training of the children of the Church is every year receiving increased attention. The discussion of this subject in our Synodical and Classical meetings, and in the conventions organized in every part of our territory, is producing good results. The true nature of Sunday-school work, and of its relation to the Church, is coming to be better understood as time goes on, and the Church is deriving increased benefit from this department of her activity.

The reports before us bear testimony to a growing spirit of liberality among our people. Notwithstanding the stringency of the times and the failure of the crops in portions of our territory, there has been no serious falling off, but rather an increase in our benevolent contributions. These are not yet as large as they might be; but our people are becoming more and more enlightened in regard to the needs of the Church and the duty and blessedness of alms-giving, and the hope may, therefore, reasonably be entertained that before long larger amounts of money will flow into the treasuries of the Church.

The Synod is alive to the important cause of missions. A number of the reports in our hands mention this cause with much sympathy, and earnestly commend it to the favorable attention of our people. The contributions reported for this cause also attest the fact that the duty of preaching the Gospel to the poor, and to those who sit in the region and shadow of death, is not forgotten. But there is still room for increased liberality and for enlarged devotion to this sacred cause. Our mission in Japan may be said to be in a peculiar sense the child of this Synod, and ought, as it no doubt will continue, to receive the earnest support of the pastors and people of this Synod.

The cause of education also claims the attention of the Synod. Three institutions of learning are located within the bounds of the Synod, though only one of them, namely Mercersburg College, stands directly connected with this body. It is gratifying that a respectable beginning has been made in the movement of

endowing a professorship in the Theological Seminary at Lancaster, Pa., by this Synod, and the hope is not unreasonable that before another year shall have expired this movement may be completed.

Several of the reports before us speak of the increasing worldliness of the age in which we live. This is an age of great material progress and of intense secular activity, and as such it is beset by serious dangers. The advance of infidelity, the greed for gain, and the passion for amusements, for example, are matters that call for increased devotion and watchfulness on the part of pastors and people.

And now unto Him that has loved us and purchased us with His own blood, to Him be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,

W.M. RUPP, *Chairman.*

(For the Statistical Tables, see Appendix.)

ARTICLE XIII.

EDUCATION.

The Board of Education presented its annual report to the Synod during the session of Friday afternoon, which was received and referred to the Standing Committee on Education for consideration. The report is as follows, to wit:

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

To the Reverend Synod of the Potomac:

Your Board of Education begs leave to present the following annual report for the fiscal or Synodical year just ended.

At the close of the last annual meeting of the Synod at Hanover, the Board met for the purpose of organization, and was duly organized by the election of the Rev. Wm. Goodrich as *President*, the Rev. S. S. Miller as *Secretary*, and the Rev. Wm. M. Deatrick as *Treasurer*.

The work of the Board was carried forward successfully, during the year just closed. One of our beneficiary students, Jonathan W. Miller, completed his curriculum of study last May, graduated from the Theological Seminary at Lancaster, Pa., and was duly licensed subsequently by the Mercersburg Classis, and then dismissed to the Allegheny Classis, within whose bounds he is now serving one of the missions under the care of the Tri-Synodie Board of Missions.

Twelve young men were assisted in their studies, during the past year, by funds furnished the Board by the Classes of Maryland, Virginia, Mercersburg, Carlisle and Juniata. At this time the Board has on its list of beneficiary students twelve young brethren, having received two of them under its care, since our last annual report was rendered to the Synod. Their appropriations aggregate \$1,650.00, each receiving the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars, save one, whose appropriation is only one hundred dollars, and another fifty dollars per annum. They are distributed as follows: Maryland Classis, five; Juniata Classis, three; Virginia Classis, two; Mercersburg Classis, one; and Carlisle Classis, one. Four of them, J. N. Bauman, J. F. Mackley, M. H. Mill and J. W. Myers, are members of the Senior Class of the Theological Seminary at Lancaster, Pa., and will, it is fondly hoped, complete their theological training next May, and be ready for licensure and the active and responsible labors of the Christian ministry. The remainder are still receiving instruction—four of them in Franklin and Marshall College, three of them in Mercersburg College and one in an academy at McGaheysville, Va.

The Board would also report, that the Board of Trustees of Catawba College,

located at Newton, N. C., furnished your Board with an annual report, as requested by the Synod in its sessions at Newton, N. C., two years ago. This institution is more particularly devoted to the work of education in the Southern States. From the report of the Trustees we learn that Catawba College is in a prosperous condition, and is certainly doing a good work for Christian education in that portion of Synod's territory. It has six teachers and one hundred and eighty pupils, according to the report furnished. The teachers receive all the support they get from the regular tuition fees, the college having no endowment, which is greatly needed.

Your Board would further report that there is within the bounds of this Synod Juniata Collegiate Institute, now conducted as an Indian Training-School, located at Martinsburg, Pa., of which P. H. Bridenbaugh, A.M., is Principal; and that of the one hundred and forty-five pupils reported in attendance during the year, eighty-five were Indian children.

Mercersburg College is, however, the only institution over which the Synod has absolute control and ownership. In view of this fact, and of the moneyed interest of the Synod in the property of Mercersburg College, and also of the necessity of affording our youth the opportunity of obtaining a thorough classical education at the smallest possible expense, your Board would urge the Synod to take such action as shall enable Mercersburg College to prosecute its work in a more effective manner.

In view of the educational advantages afforded thus to the different sections of our large territory your Board recommend the following action:

Resolved, That the institutions above named be commended anew to the patronage and hearty support of our people.

The amount contributed during the last fiscal year for the cause of beneficiary education has increased, your Board is pleased to report, very considerably over the amount of former years, as should be the case. The aggregate furnished by the contributing congregations last year, as may be seen from the synopsis of the Treasurer's Report, is \$1,253.02, not counting interest on legacies, which amounts to an additional sum of \$225.22.

The Treasurer thankfully acknowledges the receipt of the following moneys for this arm of church work since our last annual report, omitting the dates of payment, to wit:

SYNOPSIS OF TREASURER'S REPORT.

Maryland Classis.

Evangelical Reformed Church of Frederick \$100.00, Middletown Church \$81.00, Mount Moriah Charge \$48.31, First Reformed Church of Baltimore \$48.00, First Reformed Church of Hagerstown \$46.31, Third Reformed Church of Baltimore \$46.00, Cavetown Charge \$42.00, St. Paul's (English) Reformed Church of Baltimore \$40.00, Glade Charge \$35.00, Silver Run Charge \$30.00, Clear Spring Charge \$24.00, Boonsboro' Charge \$24.00, Jefferson Charge \$22.00, Westminster Charge \$20.00, Manchester Charge \$20.00, Emmitsburg Church \$17.06, Manor Charge \$11.55, Mechanicstown Charge \$10.36, Mount Pleasant Charge \$10.00, Burkittsville Charge \$10.00, Christ Church Charge of Hagerstown \$8.00, Grace Mission of Washington, D. C., \$3.00. Making \$696.59.

Virginia Classis.—\$230.00.

Mercersburg Classis.

First Reformed Church of Chambersburg \$22.00, Waynesboro' Charge \$20.00, Mercersburg Charge \$19.00, Greencastle Charge \$19.00, St. Paul's Reformed Church of Waynesboro' \$15.00, St. Thomas Charge \$12.00, Grindstone Hill Charge \$10.10, Second Reformed Church of Chambersburg \$5.00, Loudon Charge \$3.78. Making \$125.88.

Carlisle Classis.

Carlisle Church \$40.05, Newburg Church \$25.00, Sunday-school of St. Peter's Church \$15.00, New Bloomfield Charge \$12.50, Elder Benjamin Titzel \$10.00, Elder William Wagner \$5.00, Elder Peter Stambaugh \$5.00. Making \$112.55.

Juniata Classis.

Martinsburg Charge \$30.00, Sulphur Spring Charge \$10.00, Reformed Church of Altoona \$10.00, St. Clairsville Charge \$10.00, Everett Charge \$10.00, Huntingdon Charge \$6.00, Water Street Charge \$5.00, Clear Ridge Charge \$5.00, Dunning's Creek Charge \$2.00. Making \$88.00.

Interest on Legacies.

Interest on Nicholas Gruber legacy, \$213.22; interest on Jacob Stoudenour legacy, \$12.00. Making \$225.22.

RECAPITULATION.

Summary of Receipts.

Balance in Treasury, at last report, October 11, 1884	\$794.00
Received from the Maryland Classis	696.59
" " Virginia "	230.00
" " Mercersburg "	125.88
" " Carlisle "	112.55
" " Juniata "	88.00
Interest on legacies	225.22

Total receipts \$2,272.24

Summary of Payments.

Paid to beneficiary students of Maryland Classis	\$662.50
" " " " Juniata " 	382.50
" " " " Virginia " 	187.50
" " " " Carlisle " 	147.50
" " " " Mercersburg " 	131.25
Postage and stationery	1.50
 Total payments	\$1,512.75
Balance in Treasury, October 19, A.D. 1885	759.49
 \$2,272.24	

Respectfully submitted by

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

We do hereby certify that we have carefully audited the account of Rev. Wm. M. Deatrick, Treasurer of the Board of Education of the Synod of the Potomac, by vouchers and find the same to be correct.

The foregoing synopsis of the Treasurer's Report, with the Recapitulation of summaries of Receipts and Payments, is a true and faithful statement of the same. We accordingly find the balance in the Treasury at this time to be \$759.49.

Mercersburg, Pa., Oct. 19th, 1885. GEO. W. AUGHINBAUGH,
J. W. KNAPPENBERGER, Committee.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF MERCERSBURG COLLEGE.

The Board of Regents of Mercersburg College presented their annual report to the Synod, during the session of Friday forenoon, which was received and then referred to the Standing Committee on Education. The report is as follows:

To the Reverend Synod of the Potomac:

The Board of Regents of Mercersburg College begs leave to lay before your reverend body, for consideration, the following annual report:

The Board, at a meeting held in Hanover last October, was organized by the election of the undersigned as *President*, Rev. A. J. Heller as *Secretary*, and E. J. Bonbrake, Esq., as *Treasurer*. The Executive Committee of the Board consists of the officers *ex-officio*, together with Revs. W. C. Cremer and W. Goodrich,

At the same meeting the Board resolved to hold an adjourned meeting at Mer-

cersburg on the 11th of November, to carry out, if possible, the instructions of the Synod, as given at the last annual meeting. Accordingly, at the time designated, the Board met at Mercersburg. An effort was earnestly made to carry out the wishes of the Synod as expressed in the action of last year. It was, however, soon ascertained to be impossible to do so. In the first place, it was found to be impossible to compromise the indebtedness of the College at a figure not exceeding the sum of seven thousand dollars, because \$4,620 are in first mortgage and judgment claims for which the present holders paid dollar for dollar. After these secured claims, there is another judgment amounting to over six hundred dollars, making a total of over fifty-two hundred dollars of secured debts, and leaving less than eighteen hundred dollars to satisfy and wipe out the unsecured indebtedness of the College. The secured creditors, who paid dollar for dollar for the claims which they hold against the property, could not reasonably be expected to scale their claims in order to enable the unsecured creditors to get a larger percentage of theirs. It is known that some of them would contribute handsomely towards lifting the entire indebtedness were such an effort earnestly undertaken. But this was not the only difficulty that your Board had to encounter. Whilst we were limited to the sum of seven thousand dollars, there was no possibility to effect a loan for that amount, as the Synod was not willing to oblige itself, in any manner, for the principal of the loan, but only for the interest on that sum for a limited period of time. To have procured a loan on the property itself, it would at least have been necessary to get the consent of the secured creditors. In other words, they would have had to surrender their rights in the case, which they could not be reasonably asked to do, and which they were unwilling to make. For similar reasons, it was out of the question to effect a sale of any of the property, as suggested by the Synod, except at a ruinous sacrifice. Thus the matter remains, substantially, as it did one year ago.

The educational work of the College has gone forward regularly during the past Synodical year, under the careful management of Rev. G. W. Aughinbaugh, D.D., as Principal or President of the College, without involving your Board in any expense. The same teaching force has been employed, and the number of students is about the same that it was a year ago. One of the female pupils, Miss Hattie Booth, completed the prescribed course in the Female Department of the College, graduated last June, and was granted a diploma to that effect by your Board. Four of the male students made application last June, and were admitted to the Sophomore Class of Franklin and Marshall College, and are now there prosecuting their studies. The students, generally, have deported themselves properly and have made commendable progress in their several studies.

It was found absolutely necessary to expend funds repeatedly, during the year, in keeping up needed repairs to the property. Other repairs ought to have been made, had the financial condition of things warranted.

The Board takes pleasure in announcing to the Synod and the Church that, by an agreement made with the Board, the President of Mercersburg College, Rev. Dr. Anghinbaugh, obligates himself to furnish all beneficiary students, and also any other young men studying in the College for the work of the ministry in our Church, boarding, tuition, room-rent, fuel and light for the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars per scholastic year of forty weeks.

The Board regrets the necessity of reporting to the Synod that the Treasurer of Synod failed to pay the whole amount of Synod's appropriation to the College for the past Synodical year. Some of the Classes, derelict in their duty, are to blame for this state of affairs.

All of which is respectfully submitted by order of the Board of Regents of Mercersburg College.

W. M. M. DEATRICK, President.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.
To the Reverend Synod of the Potomac :

RESPECTED BRETHREN :—The undersigned presents the following as the Report of the Board of Visitors of the Theological Seminary for the past year.

The Seminary opened in September, 1884, and continued in session, agreeably to the regulations of the Board, to the end of the year in May last.

The following persons were admitted to the Junior Class, six in number: Calvin E. Bartholomew, Julius Fink, Richard F. Gass, Robert O'Boyle, Lewis Robb and Oscar P. Steckel. Three of these are graduates of Franklin and Marshall College, and the other three possessed sufficient classical training to enable them to pursue with profit all the branches of study prescribed in the course of instruction.

The Middle Class consisted of the members of the Junior Class of the previous year, together with Rufus W. Miller, a graduate of Lafayette College, at Easton, Pa., who presented a regular dismission from Union Theological Seminary, New York, and entered his class *ad eundem*.

The members of the Senior Class having finished the course of study prescribed by the Synod, and having sustained a satisfactory examination in the presence of the Board of Visitors, received the usual testimonial of honorable dismission at the anniversary of the Seminary last sprung. Their names are as follows: Henry Ditzler, Charles R. Ferner, Cyrus M. Hartzell, William E. Hoy, Warren J. Johnston, Jonathan W. Miller, Lewis Reiter and Peter M. Trexler. One of them has received an appointment to labor as a missionary in Japan, three as missionaries in the home field, and the remaining four are occupying posts of usefulness in regular charges.

There were thus in all twenty-five students in the Seminary,—eight in the Senior, eleven in the Middle and six in the Junior Class.

The Board attended the oral examinations of the students at the end of the year and carefully examined the papers prepared at the written examinations. These were satisfactory and gave evidence that the students were diligent and faithful in their studies and in the improvement of their time.

The moral and religious conduct of the students, with one exception, was such as to commend itself to the respect and confidence of the Faculty. They sought in various ways to improve the tone of piety in the Institution, and by their missionary meetings to awaken and intensify the missionary spirit among themselves and others.

The exception referred to above was Mr. Fink, who, although he came to the Seminary with satisfactory testimonials, proved himself unworthy, and was expelled from the Institution.

On the whole, the past year has been a season of prosperity to our school of the prophets, and, as in years gone by, it has supplied its quota of new laborers in the ministry. The supply, however, has not been equal to the demand, and our prayers should continue to ascend that God may send more laborers into our harvest fields.

Respectfully submitted,

Lancaster Pa., October 1, 1885.

THEODORE APPEL, *Secretary.*

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

To the Synod of the Potomac of the Reformed Church in the United States.

The Board of Trustees of the Theological Seminary submit the following report:

We have held our usual meetings during the year and transacted the routine business of the Board. We desire to call the attention of the Synod to the following items:

1. You will notice by the Report of the Treasurer, which accompanies this paper, that the contributions for the Relief Fund have fallen off very much during the current year, the aggregate for the year being about \$275.00 against \$1662.11 for the preceding year.

2. Another matter requires the special attention of the Synods. The property of the Seminary needs some expensive repairs. The houses erected in 1871 ought to be repainted, especially the entire exterior wood-work. The fencing of the Seminary grounds has been standing for more than thirty years and is now going to pieces. Within a year or two it must be rebuilt, though some of the old material may again be used. A number of other things might be named that

demand attention without delay, but it is not necessary that in this report we should enter into all the details. It is enough for us to state that the necessity of making a number of repairs is upon us, without taking into account the improvements; otherwise the property of the Church will sustain serious losses. These matters would have been attended to before this time, but the income from the Endowment and other funds, and from the Relief Collections, has not justified the Board in incurring these expenses. We submit, therefore, to the earnest consideration of the Synods this proposition: That the three Synods raise annually, for the next ensuing two years, the sum of one thousand dollars, for the purpose of meeting the annual deficit in the regular expenditures, and of supplying the money required to make the needed repairs.

We take the liberty also to propose that of this total the Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States engage to pay annually for two years, \$550.00; the Synod of the Potomac, \$300.00; and the Pittsburgh Synod, \$150.00; and further, that each Synod apportion the amount assumed among its Classes, earnestly requesting them, as soon as practicable, to pay the amount apportioned to the Treasurer of the Seminary.

We refrain from argument in support of the proposition which we have respectfully submitted. A little reflection will convince all that the work which we, the guardians of the property of the Church, desire to perform is indispensable. The funds required will prove but a very light burden when distributed among the pastoral charges of the three Synods.

The sum named annually for two years is designed during that time to furnish enough for the Relief Fund and for the needed repairs to the property. We earnestly request the Synod to give this matter their attention and to urge upon the Classes the necessity of a liberal response to meet these wants. If the needs of the Seminary are made known to the people by the pastors, we feel satisfied that they will respond promptly and willingly.

We present with this paper the Annual Report of the Treasurer, which explains itself. It shows that, even with our limited resources, your Board has managed thus far to carry forward the financial affairs of the Institution without serious embarrassment.

Respectfully submitted,

D. W. GROSS, *President.*
EDW. J. ZAHM, *Secretary.*
JOHN B. ROTH, *Treasurer.*

SYNOPSIS OF REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, AS FURNISHED.

Report of John B. Roth, Treasurer of the Theological Seminary, for the year ending October 1, 1885.

Amount of Endowment Fund is, as per account rendered to the Seminary Board	\$68,224 76
DR.	
To balance due Seminary October 1, 1884	\$342 36
To sundry interests received to date	4570 53
To Aid Fund " "	269 07
	\$5181 96
CR.	
By sundry accounts paid to date	\$4660 70
Balance due Seminary, October 1, 1885	\$521 26
Library Fund.	
Amount of principal	\$2069 96
DR.	
To balance due by Treasurer, October 1, 1884	\$111 85
To interest received to date	94 19
	\$206 04

CR.	
By sundry bills paid	\$210 75
Balance due Treasurer, October 1, 1885	\$4 71
Amount of Fund	\$5000 00

DR.	
To interest received on same to date	\$275 00

CR.	
By cash paid to Rev. C. G. Fisher, Treasurer,	\$275 00
Amount of Fund	\$12,883 05
All interest on same accounted for in Endowment Fund account, as per order of Seminary Board.	

Pittsburgh Professorship Fund.	
Amount of Fund	\$1718 30
Interest accounted for same as in Building Fund.	

JOHN B. ROTH, *Treasurer.*

The undersigned Auditing Committee having examined the Treasurer's account and compared his vouchers, find the same correct.

ISAAC H. KEEFER.
H. M. COCKLIN.

Lancaster, Pa., October 6, 1885.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The Standing Committee on Education, to whom the foregoing reports had been referred, reported during the session of Monday forenoon, which was received, considered item by item, amended, adopted as a whole and is as follows:

To the Reverend Synod of the Potomac:

The Committee on Education beg leave to present their report.

The following papers were put in their hands: 1. The Report of the Board of Trustees of the Theological Seminary, at Lancaster, Pa., including a synopsis of the Treasurer's Report of the same. 2. The Report of the Board of Visitors of the same Institution. 3. The Report of the Board of Regents of Mercersburg College. 4. The Report of the Board of Education, which embraced a reference to Catawba College, N. C., and also to the Indian Training School at Martinsburg, Pa.

From the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Theological Seminary, we gather that, although there has been a decrease in its revenues during the past year, it has, nevertheless, been successfully carried on. The Board asks that this Synod assume \$300 annually for two years, to repair the buildings owned by the Seminary, and to meet any deficit. The Synod has already taken favorable action on this subject.

From the Treasurer's Report of the same Institution we learn that the income from various sources for the last year has been \$5181.96, and the expenditures have been \$4660.70, leaving a balance of \$521.26.

From the Report of the Board of Visitors of the Theological Seminary we learn that twenty-five students have been in the Institution during the past year. The application, and the moral and religious conduct of the students have been of such a character as to afford much satisfaction to the Board. Especially is it gratifying to learn of the increase of a missionary spirit among the students, well attested by word and act, and that the present condition of the Seminary is encouraging, with bright prospects for the future.

From the Report of the Board of Regents of Mercersburg College and the Report of the Board of Education, we are gratified to learn of the success which has attended the educational work at Mercersburg College and Catawba College. These institutions have a goodly number of students, with the prospect of increase, but they are more or less laboring under financial embarrassment,

and greatly need aid from the friends of education in the bounds of this Synod.

We suggest, therefore, the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That we recognize the fact that the Theological Seminary has the right to challenge our continued support; but that it also deserves our warmest sympathies. We rejoice in its present prosperity, and hope the time is not far distant when this school of the prophets shall be enlarged, and more fully endowed.

Resolved, That our pastors and people be urged to use every means in their power to increase the number of candidates for the Christian Ministry.

Resolved, That Mercersburg College, under the management of the Rev. Dr. Aughinbaugh, be and hereby is again commended to the sympathy and liberality of our people to furnish it with students, and also with pecuniary aid, so that it may do the good work assigned to it.

Resolved, That Catawba College, under the presidency of Rev. Dr. Clapp, be in like manner commended to the warm sympathy of our people, who feel an interest in education, to aid it and enable it to enlarge its sphere of usefulness in the large territory, which is assigned to it.

Resolved, That as a Synod we are gratified to learn that P. H. Bridenbaugh, A.M., has successfully begun the work of educating and Christianizing the Indians committed to his care in his school at Martinsburg, Pa., and inasmuch as the amount given for the support of those Indians is so small, and he is calling for aid, we commend him to the charitable among our people to aid him and his work.

Resolved, That Friday evening of our next Synodical meeting be devoted to the discussion of our educational interests, the programme to be arranged by the Board of Education, and the services to be presided over by the President of the Board, and, still further, that the programme be limited to two subjects and four speakers.

Respectfully submitted,

J. O. MILLER, *Chairman*.

Three hundred dollars, as suggested by the Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States, was assumed by this Synod for two years, and then referred to the Standing Committee on Finance to assess the same.

The following preamble and resolution were moved and adopted, to wit:

WHEREAS, A number of alumni, students and friends of Mercersburg College having learned that the college property at this time imperatively needs a number of repairs and improvements to put them in proper condition for the work successfully, and for preserving the property to the Church, have solemnly pledged themselves to raise \$450 for the object specified; and,

WHEREAS, The property mainly belongs by deed and acceptance to the Synod of the Potomac; therefore,

Resolved, That the Synod hereby solemnly pledges itself to raise an additional sum of \$500 00 for the same purpose, and that the sum named be apportioned as follows, to wit:

Maryland Classis \$130.00, Juniata Classis \$90.00, Gettysburg Classis, \$90.00, Mercersburg Classis \$60.00, Zion's Classis \$50.00, Virginia Classis \$40.00 and Carlisle Classis \$40.00. Making \$500.00.

On motion, the Rev. J. O. Miller was authorized by the Synod to borrow the \$500.00 thus pledged by the Synod, and apportioned, so soon as required for making the contemplated repairs to the College property at Mercersburg, the same to be refunded by the Treasurer of Synod with accrued interest, as the amounts apportioned are paid into the Treasury of Synod.

The Committee, appointed at the last annual meeting of Synod, to secure the Synodical Endowment of a Professorship in the Theological Seminary at Lancaster, Pa., submitted the following report, which was received and adopted, to wit:

Your Committee on the Endowment of the Synodical Theological Professorship have to report, That some time after the adjournment of the Synod we met at Hanover, carefully canvassed the subject committed to us, and agreed upon a general course of action.

In presenting the claims of the Seminary to our people, we found that the subject was so new to them, and the necessity for strengthening the teaching force so little understood and appreciated, that we felt compelled as a first step to disseminate information on the subject in hand. This was done through printed tracts, leaflets, *Messenger* articles, public addresses, private letters, and, to some extent, also by personal visits.

We purchased three hundred and sixty copies of a tract on Additional Professorships by Rev. Dr. Gerhart, and distributed them according to our best judgment, accompanied by either a written or spoken appeal in behalf of the object. Later, we also purchased four thousand leaflets, a condensation of the above-named tract, and distributed them among the several pastors of the Synod, through the Superintendent, accompanied by an earnest written appeal for their active personal co-operation and help.

Your Committee has co-operated with the Superintendent as far as they could. The Superintendent has given as much time, thought and effort as he could spare from his pastoral work, and has made a number of special visits to present the claims of the Seminary to individuals.

Our effort has thus far been to reach the men of liberal means in our Church. The present generation has not before been confronted with this claim and our people do not yet fully understand that here is an opportunity to help the Lord's cause, at a vital point. The general business depression and the partial failure in the crops have been materially against us. In view of all these facts, it ought not to be expected that very much could be accomplished during the first year. It will require time and persistent effort, together with the hearty co-operation of our pastors, if this work is to be done without any other agency than that of your Committee.

A good beginning has, however, been made, and the sum of \$7000.00 has been secured. Of this amount \$2000.00 is now available.

Your Committee have incurred expenses to the amount of \$39.25, ten dollars of which have been paid, leaving a balance of \$29.25, for which sum we ask an order on the Treasurer of Synod. A detailed statement of expenses incurred is herewith submitted.

Respectfully submitted in behalf of the committee,

E. R. ESCHBACH, *Chairman.*

An order on the Treasury of Synod for the amount of \$29.25 was accordingly given.

The matter of investing the funds already secured towards the endowment of the proposed Professorship, and those also to be yet obtained, was referred to a special committee, consisting of Elders H. Wirt, F. M. McKeehan and H. Wetzel. This Committee subsequently presented the following report, which was received and adopted:

Your Committee to whom was referred the matter of the disposition of the funds already secured, or which may hereafter be contributed by this Synod for the endowment of its contemplated new Professorship in the Theological Seminary, would recommend the following action:

First. All moneys now in the hands of the committee appointed last year to complete this endowment, as well as sums that may hereafter be contributed for this purpose, shall be paid to the Treasurer of this Synod.

Second. The Treasurer of Synod, under the advice and by the consent of its

Board of Trustees, shall, as soon as possible after the receipt of such funds, invest the same in a secure manner, in the name of the Board of Trustees, adding thereto, from time to time, all interest accruing and received on the funds so invested.

Third. The Treasurer shall keep a separate account of all the funds paid into the treasury on this account, as well as the names of the persons contributing the same, also the amounts received for interest, and a detailed statement of the investments made under this action, to be known as the *Endowment Account*, and shall transmit a statement of the same to this Synod, at its annual meeting, from year to year.

Respectfully submitted,
HENRY WIRT, *Chairman.*

Rev. E. R. Eschbach tendered his resignation as Superintendent of the Endowment enterprise, which was accepted, and the Rev. J. C. Bowman was appointed Superintendent in his stead.

Revs. S. N. Callender and J. S. Kieffer, at their own request, were excused from serving any longer on the Endowment Committee, and the Revs. J. A. Hoffheins and T. F. Hoffmeier were substituted in their places, respectively.

A communication from the Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States informed the Synod, that the individuals nominated for election to the Boards of Visitors and Trustees of the Theological Seminary by this Synod, at its last annual meeting, were duly elected as members of the Boards named, by that Synod at its recent annual meeting in Mifflinburg, Pa.

The Board of Education, as instructed by the Synod last year, prepared the following programme of subjects pertaining to the educational interests of the Church, selected speakers for the discussion of the same, and Friday evening was devoted to holding an educational meeting, as ordered by the previous Synod. The President of the Board, Rev. W. Goodrich, presided on the occasion. The programme observed is as follows, to wit:

1. *The Higher Educational Interests of the Church.*
Speakers: Rev. J. S. Kieffer and George C. Pearson.
2. *The Claims of our Theological Seminary.*
Speakers: Revs. E. R. Eschbach and J. C. Bowman.
3. *The Educational Institutions of the Synod.*
Speakers: Rev. A. H. Kremer and E. J. Bonbrake, Esq.

On motion the following was adopted:

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees of the Theological Seminary at Lancaster, Pa., be requested to secure such changes in their Charter as to make the members of the Boards of Visitors and Trustees belonging to the Synods of the Potowmac and Pittsburgh eligible directly by these Synods, instead of simply nominating, as at present.

Resolved, That the Stated Clerk be instructed to communicate the foregoing action to the Board of Trustees of the Theological Seminary.

Revs. E. R. Eschbach, J. O. Miller, and A. H. Kremer were nominated as members of the Board of Visitors, and Elders Henry Wirt, Israel Laucks, H. Wirt Shriver, Edgar Slagle, Charles A. Shultz and Isaac H. Keefer as the members of the Board of Trustees of the Theological Seminary at Lancaster, Pa., for the term of one year.

During the session of Monday forenoon, E. J. Bonbrake, Esq., of Chambersburg, laid before the Synod a deed, transferring, by the Trustees of the Theological Seminary at Lancaster, Pa., to the Board of

Trustees of the Synod of the Potomac, the right and title of what is known as the Seminary property at Mercersburg, Pa., and now under lease for a term of years to Mercersburg College.

On motion, a vote of thanks was returned to Mr. Bonbrake for kindness in writing said deed and attending to matters connected therewith. He was requested to have the deed properly recorded in the Recorder's office of Franklin County, Pa.

At the election for members of the different Boards of Synod, held during the session of Saturday forenoon, Revs. W. Goodrich, J. W. Knappenberger and Elder J. Heyser were elected members of the Board of Education, for the term of three years. At the same time, E. J. Bonbrake, Esq. Elder A. R. Schnebly and W. Rush Gillan, Esq., were chosen as members of the Board of Regents of Mercersburg College, for the term of three years.

The following individuals constitute the Board of Education and the Board of Regents of Mercersburg College, severally, at the present time, to wit:

BOARD OF EDUCATION: Revs. W. Goodrich, J. W. Knappenberger and Elder J. Heyser, for three years; Revs. W. C. Cremer, S. S. Miller and C. Cort, for two years; and Revs. W. M. Deatrick, J. S. Kieffer and J. W. Santee, one year.

BOARD OF REGENTS: E. J. Bonbrake, Esq., Elder A. R. Schnebly and W. Rush Gillan, Esq., three years; Revs. W. M. Deatrick, W. Goodrich and C. Clever, two years; and Revs. W. C. Cremer, S. S. Miller and A. J. Heller, one year.

ARTICLE XIV.

MISSIONS.

The Annual Reports of the Tri-Synodic Board of Missions and of the Treasurer of said Board, and also of the Superintendent of Missions, also a Report from the Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and a letter from Rev. J. Gantenbein having been referred to the Standing Committee on Missions for consideration, the committee reported during the session of Friday afternoon, the report being considered item by item, and then adopted as a whole. As such, it will be found subjoined in its proper place. The several Reports are as follows:

REPORT OF TRI-SYNODIC BOARD.

To the Synod of the Potomac :

FATHERS AND BRETHREN : We herewith transmit to your Reverend Body the Annual Reports of the Superintendent and Treasurer of the Tri-Synodic Board of Missions of the Reformed Church in the United States. We commend these documents to your careful consideration. There is evidently a deeper interest manifested on the whole question of missions throughout our Church. The contributions to this object, during the past year, were larger than the previous year. The new missions to be established in several of the large cities of the West, and the work in general undertaken by the Board for the coming year, will require increased liberality on the part of the Church. Our prayer is, that the Great Head of the Church may guide you in your counsels and bless our home mission work.

Respectfully submitted,

J. O. MILLER, *President.*
W. H. H. SNYDER, *Secretary.*

II. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF MISSIONS FOR THE YEAR 1884-85.

To the Reverend Synods of Pittsburgh, of the Potomac, and of the United States:

RESPECTED BRETHREN:—The Superintendent of Missions hereby presents to your honorable bodies his Eighth Annual Report of the progress and present condition of the missions under the care of your Board.

Of the missions under the supervision of the Board, 31 are in the State of Pennsylvania, 1 in New York, 2 in Maryland, 1 in the District of Columbia, 6 in Virginia, 2 in Delaware, 4 in North Carolina, 4 in Kansas, 1 in Nebraska, 3 in Iowa, 3 in California, 4 in Oregon, 1 in Washington Territory, and 1 in Chili, South America, 64 in all.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Grace Church, Euston.—Under the Board nine years. One congregation. Members, 107. S. S. scholars, 115. Baptisms, 16. Additions, 12. Losses, 5. Benevolent contributions, \$43. Congregational purposes, \$700. Value of property, \$4,000. No debt. Attendance at Church and Sunday-school good.

Owing mainly to the efforts of the ladies of the congregation repairs have been made to the church and paid for, with some funds left in the treasury. With the blessing of God, this mission seems to be firmly established, and, as the pastor believes, is on the way to final success. Its prospects are becoming brighter. Appropriation last year, \$250. This year, \$225. Pastor, D. Y. Heisler, D. D. Commissioned in 1876.

Salem's Church, Cutasauqua.—Organized in 1873 or 1874. One congregation. Members, 170. S. S. scholars, 220. Baptisms, 12. Additions, 20. Losses, by removals, 14. For benevolence, \$50. Local objects, \$450. Value of property, \$10,000. Debt small, and soon to be paid off. Two benevolent societies in the congregation. Church papers circulated among the members.

This mission has suffered from the hard times and the want of employment among the members. The health of the pastor has compelled him to abstain from preaching for the present, but he remains in the field, exercises pastoral oversight, and has made arrangements to have his pulpit regularly supplied. The means of grace are well attended, and the members sympathize with the pastor in his afflictions. They are all united in the work of the church. When the times improve the mission will make more rapid progress towards self-support. Appropriation last year, \$350. This year, \$250. J. J. Crist, pastor. Commissioned in spring of 1877.

Zion's Reformed Church, Stroudsburg.—Organized May 17, 1882. One congregation. Members, 45. S. S. scholars, 60. For benevolence, \$15. For congregational purposes \$2,000. Value of property, \$8,000. Indebtedness, \$1,400. The new church was dedicated in November last, forming an interesting epoch in the progress of the mission. It is a handsome building, and is much admired. The mission may be considered as well established, and its prospects are encouraging. The pastor is still under the necessity of supplying several congregations in the country, which, with the depressed financial affairs in the community, has been a drawback to the development of the mission. A promising catechetical class has just been formed. Appropriation last year, \$275. This year, \$275. Pastor, G. W. Kerschner.

Bangor.—Two congregations. Members, 175. S. S. scholars, 250. Baptisms, 20. Additions, 24. Losses, 5. For benevolence, \$25. For local objects, \$500. Other statistics not given. The mission is in a prosperous condition. Appropriation last year, \$300. This year, \$275. Pastor, J. G. Neff.

West Philadelphia. The Church of the Strangers.—One congregation. Members, 50. S. S. scholars, 60. Baptisms, 2. Additions, 4. Losses, 2. For benevolence, \$100. Congregational purposes, \$570. Collected in other churches, for

lot and chapel, \$2,000. The old property was sold some time ago for \$2,200, and after the mortgage resting on it was paid off, a balance of \$1,070, was left for the new enterprise. The new chapel, which promises to be an inviting place of worship, in a desirable part of the city, is now under roof, and is expected to be ready for use in October. Much of the time of the pastor was occupied during the year in traveling about, soliciting money for the new church, which prevented him, in a measure, from attending to his duties as pastor; still the spiritual interests of the mission are said to be encouraging. A new and more hopeful spirit has taken possession of the members. After the new church is finished and paid for, it is believed that it will not be long until the mission becomes self-sustaining. Appropriation last year, \$800. This year, \$800. Pastor, G. H. Johnston. Commissioned January 1, 1884.

Lansdale.—This is a new mission lately organized, taken under the care of the Board by the request of the Classis of Tohickon. One congregation. Members, 60. S. S. scholars, 200. Since May 1st, one baptism and one addition to the church. For benevolence, \$10. Value of property, \$5,500. Indebtedness, \$1,800. Lansdale is a thriving railroad town, where Reformed members will come to reside in the future. The congregation was formerly part of a charge, but it suffered from the want of more preaching and pastoral care. It is now properly provided for and the prospects are that it will grow and increase. The new pastor was thankfully welcomed by the members, and an interesting catechetical class has been started, which is still increasing. Both pastor and people are much encouraged, and if properly sustained for a few years the mission will no doubt be able to provide for itself, and then assist others. Appropriation, \$300. Pastor, J. J. Rothrock, commissioned May 1, 1885.

Reading, St. Stephen's.—Organized March 16, 1883. One congregation. Members, 124. S. S. scholars, 311. Baptisms, 14. Additions, 36. Losses, 3. For benevolence, \$31. For congregational purposes, \$675. Value of property, \$6,700. Indebtedness on ground, \$3,000. Attendance good. A large proportion of the membership show commendable zeal in all church work. The pastor feels much encouraged, and regards the prospects of the mission for the future very encouraging. Appropriation last year, \$250. This year, \$250. Pastor, C. S. Gerhard, commissioned Nov. 1, 1883.

Second Reformed Church, Harrisburg.—Organized in 1864. One congregation. Members, 119. S. S. scholars, 200. Baptisms, 12. Additions, 17. Losses, 9. For benevolence, \$114. For local objects, \$2,046. Value of property, \$9,000. Indebtedness, \$900, just assumed.

During the past year this mission has been successful in the erection of a handsome parsonage on the ground belonging to the church, at a cost of about \$2,000, on which it has paid about \$1,200, pledged or already paid. This movement has had a good effect on the congregation, and given it a new impulse. It has now the prospect of becoming self-supporting at no distant day. The mission has made encouraging progress during the year. Appropriation last year, \$200. This year, \$200. Pastor, G. W. Snyder, commissioned April 1, 1873.

Zwingli German Mission, Harrisburg.—One congregation. Members, 72. S. S. scholars, 40. Baptisms, 6. Additions, 21. Losses, 1. For benevolence, \$10. For congregational purposes, \$545. Value of property, \$8,000. Indebtedness, \$1,200. No reduction. During the year the church has been improved in appearance, and with this outward progress there has been a corresponding progress in the spiritual life of the congregation. With the encouragement of Classis, the missionary is at present making an effort to remove the indebtedness. Pastor and people are encouraged. Appropriation last year, \$100. This year, \$100. Pastor, John Kuelling, D.D., commissioned July 1, 1884.

Steelton Mission.—Organized in February, 1884. This mission has been supplied with preaching regularly, every two weeks, by the Superintendent

himself, or under his direction. The movement started last year to secure the means to erect a chapel was postponed until a missionary could be secured to take charge of the mission. The efforts made to secure a suitable pastor also failed. The members are discouraged, and think it would be best to suspend the services every two weeks, until the mission is prepared to make a new start under more favorable auspices. The congregation consists of from thirty to forty members, all in limited circumstances, but worthy and consistent members of the Reformed Church. If they could be assisted in erecting a chapel, costing from \$1,500 to \$3,000, and could be supplied with a pastor soon, we believe the mission would be successful. Vacant.

Duncannon Mission.—Organized as a mission about thirteen years ago. Three congregations, at Duncannon, Marysville and Dellville respectively. Members, 131. S. S. scholars, 140. Baptisms, 6. Additions, 10. Losses, 4. For benevolence, \$80. For local objects, \$—. Value of property, about \$6000. No indebtedness. Sunday-school literature well circulated in the congregation. The charge has made a slow, but substantial progress during the year. Appropriation last year, \$150. This year, \$150. Pastor, J. R. Lewis, commissioned July 1, 1882.

St. John's Church, Williamsport.—One congregation. Members, 108. S. S. scholars, 100. Baptisms, 4. Additions, 34. Losses, 4. For benevolent objects, \$50. For local objects, \$3400. Value of property, \$10,750. Indebtedness, \$1800. The new church, which was dedicated on the 7th of June last, is ample and attractive. This mission has made substantial progress during the past year. The attendance at church and the Sunday-school has been regularly increasing since the congregation commenced to worship in the new church. The weekly prayer meeting, the S. S. teachers' meeting and the missionary society are well attended. Organized in 1882. Appropriation last year, \$150. This year, \$150. Pastor, D. H. Leader.

Lock Haven.—Two congregations. Members, 160. S. S. scholars, 225. Baptisms, 8. Additions, 18. Losses, 12. For benevolence, \$56. Congregational purposes, \$911. Value of church property, \$8000. Indebtedness, \$112. Reduction of indebtedness, \$512. The mission has made substantial progress during the year. All the families were visited four times a year, once at least previous to each communion. Last January the ladies formed a Mite Society, which has been successful in raising money to liquidate the remaining indebtedness on the church. The members have been liberal in their contributions to the support of the church in their circumstances. Many of them have been thrown out of employment by the stagnation in the lumber trade. When the times improve, of which there is no immediate prospect, the mission will make more rapid strides towards self-support. Still even during the stringency of the present the pastor has good reasons to be encouraged. Appropriation last year, \$275. For the coming year, \$275. G. W. Gerhard, pastor, commissioned September 1, 1883.

Overton Mission, in Bradford and Sullivan Counties.—Three congregations,— Overton, Dushore and Elkland. Members, 180. S. S. scholars, 75. Baptisms, 24. Additions, 23. Losses, 3. One student for the ministry. For benevolence, \$47. For congregational purposes, \$330. Value of property at present, \$2000. Indebtedness, \$150. The congregation at Overton has at length united in the erection of a new church, which was much needed, the corner-stone of which was laid during the month of September. The congregation at Dushore is still without a house of worship, but an effort is on foot to erect one, and about \$400 have been subscribed for that purpose. The Classis has allowed the pastor to collect still further funds in its congregations for this object, and he reports that the canvass just commenced has shown good results. The mission is making progress, and has every reason to expect that under the present pastoral care it will in a few years become successfully established. Appropriation last

year, \$125. This year, \$125. Pastor, C. M. Mutschler, commissioned January 1, 1882.

Orbisonia.—Three congregations. Members, 103. S. S. scholars, 60. Baptisms, 7. Additions, 10. Losses, 11. For benevolence, \$38. For congregational purposes, \$220. Value of church property, \$3500. Indebtedness, \$50. No reduction. Each congregation owns its own church building. Organized as a mission in 1876. The present pastor has been one year in the field, and under his efficient management the mission seems to have made a new start. Peace, harmony and good order prevail. Attention has been paid to make the churches attractive. Property has been repaired, a new organ has been introduced into one of the churches, and one contemplated in another. The charge needs a parsonage, and as soon as one is secured, which ought to be during the coming year, the charge will be nearly or quite self-supporting. Appropriation last year, \$150. For coming year, \$150. Pastor, N. F. Peters, commissioned September 1, 1884.

Shenandoah.—After a change of pastor this mission became self-sustaining during the past year.

St. Luke's, Lancaster, Pa..—One congregation. Organized January, 1879, with 8 members. Present membership, 80. S. S. scholars, 230. Baptisms, 23. Additions, 7,—all heads of families. For benevolence, \$15.76. For congregational purposes, \$433.50. Value of property, \$3300. No debt. Church papers taken, 323. A Willing Workers' Aid Society, which meets monthly at the homes of the members, was organized during the past year. The mission has been fruitful during the past five years, both as to quantity and quality. During that period the increase in efficient members has been five times, and in offerings seven times. The members are all poor, but their contributions to the support of the pastor have been increasing yearly. Owing to the hard times the project of purchasing additional ground in order to enlarge the chapel—something very much needed—has not as yet been carried out. As times improve it is hoped that this will be accomplished. Appropriation last year, \$300. This year, \$300. Pastor, W. F. Lichliter, commissioned June 1, 1885.

Marietta.—Mission organized in 1878. One congregation. Members, 131. S. S. Scholars, 145. Baptisms, 22. Additions, 13. Losses, 14. For benevolence, \$26. For congregational purposes, \$398. Has an interest in a union church, of which it has the exclusive use, worth about \$3,000. No indebtedness. The congregation is predominantly American, but it has provided regular services for foreign Germans, which are duly appreciated. The general depression in business has been felt more particularly in Marietta, and more especially in the Reformed mission. With the blessing of God, however, the mission has been enabled to hold its own, and to make some advance in spiritual life. Appropriation last year, \$100. This year, \$100. Pastor D. B. Schneder. Commissioned, June 15, 1883.

Clear Ridge, Bedford Co..—Three congregations. Members, 102. Sunday-school scholars, 90. Baptisms, 15. Additions, 20. Losses, 4. For benevolence, \$45.66. Local objects not given. Value of property, \$1700. Indebtedness still \$263. No reduction. 13 Messengers. This mission is growing in spiritual strength and in numbers, but the almost entire failure of the wheat crop within the bounds of the charge, during the present year, will embarrass the members in giving the pastor his promised support during the coming year. We may hope that divine grace will be sufficient to enable them to endure the burden when it comes, and sustain their churches with Christian self-denial. Then the blessing will be so much the greater afterwards. Appropriation last year, \$150. For the coming year, \$150. D. G. Klein, Pastor. Commissioned July 1, 1884.

Sulphur Spring Mission, Bedford Co..—Organized in 1876. Three congrega-

tions; one at Mann's Choice, one on Dry Ridge, and Schroyer's Church. Members, 238. S. S. scholars, 105. Baptisms, 12. Additions, 9. Losses, 3. Value of property, \$3,000. No indebtedness. Further statistics not given.

After the withdrawal of the former pastor this mission became vacant for several months until the month of May, when it was again supplied. The present pastor reports that the prospects of the mission are encouraging. Catechetical classes have been established in all three of the congregations, with some thirty catechumens in attendance. The attendance on public worship is good. Appropriation last year, \$150. This year, \$150. Pastor S. C. Long. Commissioned, May 1, 1885.

Will's Creek Mission, Bedford and Somerset Counties.—Organized in 1881. Vacant for seven months, but supplied until March 1, 1885, when the present pastor took charge of it. Four congregations. Members, 225. S. S. Scholars, 130. Baptisms, 6. Additions since last March, 25. Losses, 16. For benevolence, \$68.61. For congregational purposes, \$620. Value of property about \$4000. Indebtedness, \$160. Reduction during the last six months, \$240, with the prospect of its total extinction by the coming spring.

The congregations are inconveniently situated for the formation of a charge imposing much physical labor upon the pastor in meeting his appointments at different points on the mountains. But he has taken hold of his work with youthful vigor, and, as the results show, his labors in strengthening the charge have not been without fruit. At present he is engaged in organizing a new congregation at Glencoe along the railroad, where a church is much needed. When this is once accomplished, it is hoped that the way will be opened for the formation of two charges. Appropriation last year, \$115. This year, \$120. Pastor, C. H. Reiter. Commissioned, March 1, 1885.

St. John's, Johnstown.—One congregation. Members, 93. S. S. scholars, 83. Baptisms, 14. Additions, 8. Losses, 16. For benevolence, \$45.05. Local objects, \$397.56. Value of property, \$3000. No indebtedness. In consequence of the stagnation in business, this mission has suffered in various ways during the past year. The loss in the membership has been greater than its increase. The members, however, have shown commendable zeal in sustaining the church and the pastor in his work. Unity, peace and Christian love pervade the congregation. The pastor has been preaching at several points along the railroad, from which he expects good results to his charge in the future. Appropriation last year, \$350. This year, \$350. Pastor, W. H. Bates. Commissioned, January 1, 1881.

Latrobe.—Congregations two, one at Latrobe and the other in Ligonier Valley. Members, 125. S. S. scholars, 90. Baptism, 10. Additions, 3. For benevolence, —. For local objects, \$225. Value of property, \$10,000. Indebtedness, \$400. Reduction of indebtedness, \$345. The former pastor, the Rev. S. H. Eisenberg, withdrew from this mission December 1, 1884. The present pastor entered upon his duties last June. The mission is united and its prospects encouraging. An interesting class of catechumens will be formed soon. Appropriation last year, \$200. This year, \$200. Pastor, C. M. Hartzell. Commissioned June 1, 1885.

East End, and Wilkinsburg.—Two congregations, two missions united, Zion's and Trinity. Organized March 23, 1873.

In Zion's Congregation. Members, 60. S. S. scholars, 75. Baptisms, 9. Additions, 13. Losses, 7. For benevolence, \$40. For local objects, \$400. Value of property, \$3000. Reduction of debt, \$400. Present indebtedness, \$200.

In Trinity Congregation. Members, 56. S. S. scholars, 80. Baptisms, 5. Additions, 6. Losses, 4. For benevolence, \$50. For local objects, \$350. Value of property, \$3000. Indebtedness, none. Reduction of debt, \$300.

The mission, as a whole, has made progress, externally and internally, under

the present pastor. Since he commenced his work he has added 33 to the church. As it was assisted during the past year in liquidating nearly all of its indebtedness, it is now in a condition to assume \$350 of the appropriation made to it last year. The time is approaching, however, when the two congregations should be again separated, so as to form two distinct missions, as was formerly the case. Their future success requires that this should be done as soon as the way is open for its accomplishment. Appropriation last year, \$700. This year, \$350. Pastor, M. F. Frank, commissioned June 1, 1884.

McKeesport and Turtle Creek.—Two congregations. Members, 98. S. S. scholars, 94. Baptisms, 16. Additions, 24. For benevolence, \$28. For local objects, \$870. Value of property, \$6000. Indebtedness, \$1400, assumed during the year in erecting a chapel.

This mission was organized between two and three years ago, with 43 members. Since then it has more than doubled its membership. Then it had no church buildings; now it has two inviting chapels. One of these, at McKeesport, was put up during the past year, with a tower on one of the corners and well furnished in the interior. The time of the pastor has been largely occupied in securing the funds for the erection of the new church; but the congregations have made progress in the Christian life. Prayer-meetings have been held weekly and missionary societies have been organized in both congregations during the past year. Appropriation last year, \$450. This year, \$400. Pastor, H. D. Darbaker, commissioned January 1, 1883.

New Castle Mission.—Organized about five years ago. One congregation. Members, 57. S. S. scholars, 35. Baptisms, 9. Additions, 23. For benevolence, \$27.85. For congregational purposes, \$450. Value of property, \$4000. Indebtedness, \$880. No reduction.

This mission became vacant on the 1st of March last, but was again supplied with a pastor on the 1st of June. Owing to some dissesions, which unfortunately have not as yet all been healed up, it suffered considerably during the few months it was without a pastor. It has, however, in some degree, rallied under its new leader, and good hopes are entertained that it will surmount all the difficulties in its way. Services in the sanctuary and the Sunday-school are improving. A missionary society of 18 members has been organized, and a more hopeful feeling pervades the members. Appropriation last year, \$400. This year, \$400. Pastor, J. W. Miller, commissioned May 15, 1885.

Sharon Mission, Mercer Co.—This mission was formerly under the Board, but became self-supporting, with some help from the Pittsburgh Synod. About one year ago one of the congregations was united with the Mercer Mission, which then became self-supporting. Under these circumstances, by recommendation of the Synod's Board, it was again placed under this Board with an appropriation.

The statistics, as far as given, are as follows: One congregation. Members, 154. S. S. scholars, 80. Additions, 34. Losses, 26. For benevolence, \$41. For congregational purposes, \$512. The mission has suffered from the hard times, but it is growing in grace and strength. Appropriation last year, \$100. This year, \$50. Pastor, E. E. Gruenstein, commissioned October 1, 1884.

Dubois, Clearfield Co.—Two congregations, St. Peter's, at Dubois, and the Boon's Mountain Church. Members, 60. S. S. scholars, 70. Baptisms, 6. Additions, 6. Value of property, \$6500. Indebtedness, \$500. No reduction. Under the Board since 1882.

This mission was without a pastor from July 1, 1884, to February 1, 1885, in consequence of which its spiritual interests suffered. It has, however, rallied in both of its congregations, and the prospects of future growth are again encouraging. Appropriation, \$300. Pastor, W. M. Andrews, commissioned February 1, 1885.

Houtzdale, Clearfield Co.—One congregation. Members, 48. S. S. scholars, 25. Baptisms, 19. Additions, 6. For benevolence, \$16. For congregational purposes, \$165. Value of church property, \$1200. Indebtedness, \$300. No reduction.

Owing to the hard times and the want of work near home, the members have been scattered to some extent, and it became necessary for the pastor to visit them at distant collieries, and hold services with them. At different times during the past year, the pastor, with afflictions in his family, was reduced to want, and if it had not been for kind Christian friends in the church, he would have had to endure much suffering. But aid was sent to him and his family when it was most needed, for which they feel truly thankful and much encouraged to continue in the work of the Lord. Appropriation last year, \$300. For coming year, \$300. Pastor, C. W. E. Siegel, commissioned May 1, 1882.

Scottdale Trinity Mission.—One congregation. Members, 57. S. S. scholars, 55. Baptisms, 7. Additions, 18. Losses, 2. For benevolence, \$59.83. For congregational purposes, \$506.13. Value of property, \$4,500. No indebtedness. The church festivals are observed and the church papers are taken. Some troubles have annoyed the congregation since the present pastorate began, but it is believed that they have been buried for good and that the mission is now stronger than it ever was before. No missionary society as yet exists. Appropriation last year, \$200. The coming year, \$160. Pastor, H. S. Garner, commissioned May 1, 1884.

Mercer Mission.—During the year this mission became connected with other congregations, and so required no further help.

Somerset.—Taken under the Board in 1884. Three congregations. Members, 155. S. S. scholars, 80. Baptisms, 4. Additions, 6. Losses, 4. For benevolence, \$129. Local objects, \$425. Value of property, \$3000. Debts, none.

The mission stands just about where it stood one year ago. No items of progress have been reported. The church building in Somerset is an old building and inconveniently located. A new church put up in a more eligible part of the town is much needed. Unless this is done, and a new spirit of life and activity is awakened in the congregation, it is not likely that it will make any considerable progress. On the contrary, it may decline. Appropriation last year, \$145. This year, \$100. Pastor, H. King, commissioned April 1, 1884.

Tionesta.—Vacant. No report.

MARYLAND.

Ridgely, Eastern Shore of Maryland.—Three congregations; St. Paul's at Ridgely, Caroline Co., organized in 1878; Zion's, near Millington, in Kent Co., in 1880; and St. John's, near Easton, in Talbot Co., also in 1880. The two latter are both small. Members, 85. S. S. scholars, 40. Baptisms, 8. Additions, 16. Losses, 6. For benevolence, \$37. Local objects, \$150. Value of property, \$3,000. No debt. Two churches, one being Union.

This mission has been making a gradual progress under the present pastorate. Harmony and peace prevail in the congregation, and the services of the sanctuary are well attended, although many of the members live at considerable distances from the church. In the circumstances of the case, the increase of the congregations must, for the most part, come from immigrants from the North, and this must go on for a long time to come; but whilst of these some come every year, others also go every year. The congregation at Ridgely is now well established and commands the respect of the community. But its progress towards self-support has not been as rapid as was expected, and there is still room for a greater degree of liberality in devising liberal things for the support of the church and the means of grace among its membership. Appropriation last year \$300. This year, \$300. C. W. Levan, pastor, commissioned September, 1883.

Woodberry and East Baltimore Mission.—One congregation at Woodberry organized September 14, 1884, with nine members. Members at present, 41. S. S. scholars, 90. Baptisms, 3. Additions during the year, 42. Loss, 1. For benevolence, \$21.35. For congregational purposes \$308.05. Value of property, \$5,000. The handsome new chapel at Woodberry was dedicated to the worship of God on the 12th of July last. It was built by the Classis of Maryland and the English Reformed Churches of Baltimore, with such assistance as the members of the mission could give. Since the dedication, the attendance on divine services has been good, and the members feel much encouraged, showing increased zeal and activity in their work. It is believed that it springs from an advance in their spiritual life. The mission further enjoys the confidence of the community.

On the 4th of January last, a Sunday school was organized in East Baltimore, which has been encouragingly attended. The expenses incurred in carrying it forward thus far were borne by St. Paul's and the Third Reformed Churches, and valuable assistance has been rendered by the members in conducting the school. It is believed that it will prove to be the nucleus out of which an interesting congregation will hereafter grow, and that as soon as the way is open it will call for a pastor of its own. Appropriation last year, \$300, supplemented with assistance from the members of the Baltimore churches. This year, \$300. Pastor, E. R. Deatrick, commissioned May 1, 1884.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Grace Church, Washington.—One congregation. Members, 90. S. S scholars, 56. Baptisms, 12. Additions, 26. For benevolence, \$80. For local objects, \$400. Value of property, \$18,000. Original cost, \$8,000. No debt in the mission. Some pledges assumed by the Classis not yet redeemed. Some improvements made in the church building. Services well attended. The Missionary Society, the Ladies' Aid Society, now three years old, both active. Church papers circulated. The mission shows progress and a healthy growth. Appropriation last year, \$575. This year, \$575. Pastor, C. F. Sontag, commissioned June 1, 1880.

VIRGINIA.

Winchester Mission.—Three congregations, respectively, at Winchester, Smithfield and Stephenson's Station. Members, 138. S. S. scholars, 125. Baptisms, 8. Additions, 27. Losses, 6. Benevolent contributions, \$42. For congregational purposes, \$390. Value of property, \$5,000. No debt. The new parsonage, after the sale of the old one, was completed free of debt. Two Church Aid and Missionary Societies. This mission was vacant from March to December of last year, and this report accordingly covers a period of about only eight months. It shows, however, that the mission has taken a new start, and that the pastor has great reason to be encouraged in his work. The pastor is much occupied and is seeking to occupy several new points in his field where the preaching of the gospel is called for. His members give him a cordial support, and are growing in spirituality. Appropriation last year, \$300. Next year, \$275. Pastor, S. L. Whitmore, commissioned December 1, 1884.

Harrisville, St. Stephen's.—Under the Board since June, 1883. One congregation. Members, 150. S. S. scholars, 80. Baptisms, 8. Additions, 3. Losses, 6. For benevolence, \$67. Congregational purposes, \$335. Value of church property, \$1500. Indebtedness, \$67. There has been a decided advance in the spiritual life of the people. A new congregation is to be organized at Lebanon in the near future. The prospects now are that the mission will be self-sustaining in a year from this. Appropriation last year, \$50. This year, \$25. Pastor, E. Welty, M.D., commissioned June 1, 1883.

Mt. Jackson, Mill Creek Mission.—Three congregations, one of which was or-

ganized at Mt. Jackson on the 14th of May last, with 23 members. Members in the entire charge, 145. S. S. scholars, 50. Baptisms, 5. Additions, 13. Losses, 3. For benevolence, \$37.50. For congregational purposes, \$400. Value of two churches and parsonage, \$6500. Indebtedness on parsonage, \$300. Reduction of debt, \$100. No church as yet at Mt. Jackson. Six regular preaching places. Two new chapels needed. The spiritual condition of the mission is encouraging and the prospects of becoming self-sustaining good. Mission organized in 1883. Appropriation last year, \$150. This year, \$150. Pastor, G. A. Whitmore, commissioned March 15, 1883.

Timberville, Rockingham Co.—Congregations, 2. Members, 112. S. S. scholars, 65. Baptisms, 8. Additions, 15. Loss, 1. For benevolence, \$30. Local objects, \$280. Value of church property, \$3,000. Indebtedness on parsonage, still \$100. No reduction. The mission has been making progress, as during the preceding year, but owing to failure in the crops and the financial situation in the country, it has not been able to make the advance towards self-support which was expected of it last year. For the same reason the pastor was prevented from undertaking to build a new chapel and to organize a new congregation at one of his preaching points. But with these drawbacks, the members of this mission ought to be the more vigilant and prompt in co-operating with each other in building up the mission. Appropriation \$100. Vacant.

Middlebrook.—This mission became vacant by the withdrawal of the pastor in December, who was called to take charge of an important mission, within the bounds of Classis, that had been vacant for some time. It has been occasionally supplied with preaching, and has made several efforts to supply itself with a pastor, but thus far without success. Two congregations. Members, 83. S. S. scholars, 120. Value of property, including a new parsonage, \$4,000. Indebtedness, \$700. Other statistics not given. Appropriation last year, \$150. This year, \$—. Vacant.

St. John's Mint Spring Mission.—This mission has been vacant since April, 1884. It is believed that under present circumstances, it should be reunited with the Middlebrook mission. The two would then become nearly, or quite, sustaining. One congregation. A house of worship at Mint Springs, a preaching point, but without an organized congregation. Members, 127. S. S. scholars, 40. Value of property, \$3,500. Indebtedness, \$200. No other statistics given. Appropriation in 1883, \$50. Vacant.

DELAWARE.

Wyoming, Kent Co., St. John's.—One congregation. Members, 108. S. S. scholars, 89. Baptisms, 9. Additions, 10. Losses, 2. For benevolence, \$23. For local objects, \$203.77. Value of property, \$5,000. Indebtedness, \$1,700. No reduction. This mission has had various difficulties to encounter during the year, but it has suffered no serious loss thus far. The erection of a parsonage has taxed its financial strength, and the indebtedness thus incurred has been a burden on its shoulders. The health of the pastor was seriously affected for some time during the spring, and interfered somewhat with the extension of his work, but through the providence of God it has again been restored to him. Divine services, have, on the whole, been well attended. The Sunday-school has been in a prosperous condition, and the Ladies' Aid Society, which is to be merged into a Missionary Society, has been active. There are several points in the surrounding country, where new congregations may probably be established. These are in contemplation. With greater unity and concert of action among the members, this mission has a promising future before it. Appropriation last year, \$200. This year, \$200. Pastor, S. F. Laury, commissioned December 1, 1883.

Wilmington, St. John's.—This is a new mission, organized April 12, 1885, by the Superintendent and a committee of the Classis of Philadelphia, with between

15 and 20 members. Since that time it has been placed under the pastoral care of the Rev. C. W. Levan, who has had charge of it in connection with the mission at Ridgely, and preached for it every two weeks. The pulpit has also been supplied every two weeks by the Superintendent or under his direction. The success of this mission will largely depend on its having a pastor, who will reside at Wilmington and devote his entire time to its interests. A nucleus of good reliable members has been gathered together, which it is believed will be considerably increased as soon as a more convenient place of worship can be secured, and the community comes to see that the present enterprize is to be sustained by the church until it is crowned with full success. The opening for a Reformed Church in Wilmington is a very favorable one, and one that ought not to be neglected. C. W. Levan, pastor, commissioned March 1, 1885.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Concord.—During the past year this mission has been successful in the erection of a new church, with the assistance of the Synod of the Potomac. The congregation is small, with some twenty or thirty members, but active and energetic, with a prosperous Sunday-School, and now a neat and handsome house of worship. Some time ago the missionary, Rev. J. W. Cecil, felt compelled, on account of inadequate support for his family, to withdraw from the field; and it has been vacant, although occasionally supplied, for several months. Its prospects are good, and it should be supplied with a pastor without delay. No statistics given. Appropriation last year, \$200. This year, vacant.

Newton Mission.—Organized in 1883. Three congregations. Members, 180. S. S. scholars, 80. Baptisms, 10. Additions, 15; including five heads of families. The Catechetical Class numbers, at present, 28. For benevolence, \$14,48. Other statistics not given. A Woman's Aid Society has been organized whose object is to secure means to erect a new church in town, which is much needed. The pastor has been making earnest efforts to secure family worship in all the households of the congregation. On the whole the outlook is encouraging. Appropriation last year, \$200. This year, \$200. Pastor, J. C. Clapp, D.D. Commissioned July 1, 1884.

Lincolnton.—This mission continued to be served during the past year by Prof. Foil until the 1st of June, when he withdrew. It was then connected with several neighboring congregations forming with them a convenient pastoral charge. Under a new pastor who will devote all of his time and attention to the field, it is believed that the charge will be self-sustaining in the course of the coming year. Appropriation last year, \$50. This year, \$50. Pastor, John A. Foil.

Blowing Rock, Watauga Co.—This mission is situated in a mountainous district of the western part of the State, as a number of Reformed families had settled there, and the country was to a great extent destitute of the means of grace. The Rev. J. Ingle, who was on the ground, was commissioned by the Board as missionary in this waste place, on the heights of the Alleghanies. His appropriation was small, and he was compelled to labor part of his time with his own hands in order to support his large family. He has been preaching in two places once every Sabbath, and the people have thankfully received the word of truth from his lips. Many persons visit this part of the mountain during the summer who would attend Mr. Ingle's services if a new church could be erected at some convenient point. Appropriation last year, \$100. This year, \$100. Pastor, J. Ingle.

KANSAS.

Emporia Mission.—Organized in 1880. One congregation. Members, 26. S. S. scholars, 30. Baptisms, 2. Additions, 3. For benevolence \$36,60. Congregational purposes, \$96.45. Value of property, \$6,500. Debts none. This

mission has labored under the disadvantage of having services only every two weeks, and of receiving the services and attention of the pastor during half of his time. The Board, therefore, requested him to withdraw from this field on the 1st of May last, and to confine himself to his general duties as superintendent. Since then it has been vacant. But at the annual meeting of the Board a successor was appointed to take charge of the mission, and he will soon be in the field. Appropriation last year, \$500. This year, —. Pastor, —.

Mr. Shuey as superintendent, preached at Abilene every two weeks, until it was supplied with a missionary in November last. At Baker, in Brown Co., he organized a congregation of 19 members, in November last. Baptisms here 3, and one addition. This congregation might be connected with some other congregation and form a self-supporting charge. If this cannot be done, then it should be made the centre of a new missionary field. The superintendent made a number of trips through the north-western part of Kansas and Southern Nebraska, and found members of the Reformed Church wherever he went. In Knuckles Co., Nebraska, he found valuable material for a congregation. In Norton, Rock, Osborne, Logan and other counties in Kansas, he found members and sometimes preached for them in sod school-houses. They were glad to see him, and asked him to send them ministers. In Marshall County he found twenty-five Swiss families, for whom a German missionary should be supplied. In and around Topeka he found ten families, members of the Church, who should be looked after. During the year he visited Kansas City, Mo., where there is a very promising opening for a church. It should be supplied at once. At Dallas, Texas, he found a Reformed congregation already established under Pastor E. De Geller, also a colored congregation, both of which desire to be placed under the Board. We have much reformed people in Texas, and Dallas is regarded as a good centre for missionary operations in the south-west, including Louisiana and the city of New Orleans. Appropriation last year, \$500. This year, —. Superintendent, D. B. Shuey. Commissioned November 1, 1882.

Wichita Mission.—Organized in 1883. Two congregations, one at Wichita, organized during the past year, and the other at Cheney. Members, 55. S. S. scholars, 115. Baptisms, 2. Additions, 23. For benevolence, \$5.30. For local purposes, \$1,284.70. Value of property, \$2,500. Debt provided for. The congregation at Wichita worships, for the present, in a public hall, but feels the necessity of a new church or chapel very much as something necessary to its future success. It should have one with the least possible delay. The new church at Cheney was dedicated on the 31st of May last, but the pastor was there only in spirit. He died suddenly on the 7th of April, just at the opening of great usefulness in Kansas. His death was sudden, brought on, it is believed, by over-exertion during a period of enfeebled health, and was universally deplored. His memory is blessed. Mr. Shuey, superintendent, has been directed to take charge of the mission until a suitable pastor can be secured. Appropriation last year, \$450. For the present supplied by the superintendent. Mr. Brown was commissioned April 1, 1883.

Iola.—Two congregations, one at Iola and the other at Moran. Members, 40. S. S. scholars, 30. Baptisms, 4. Additions, 9. Losses, 3. For benevolence, \$3.85. For congregational purposes, \$385. Value of ground purchased for a church at Iola, \$250. No indebtedness. The want of a church building at Iola interferes with the progress of the mission, and it is earnestly hoped that during the coming year it may receive such assistance from the church at large as it may need in going forward in supplying for itself a suitable house of worship. The members have suffered considerably in the loss of their crops, and on this account for the present and for some time to come they will need the fostering care of the church. The attendance on worship is good and the spiritual life of the members advancing. Appropriation last year, \$300. This year, \$300. Pastor, S. A. Alt, commissioned June 1, 1884.

Abilene.—This is a new mission organized in November last when the present pastor took charge. It consists at present of two congregations and at least five preaching places, out of the latter of which two congregations at least are likely to be organized at no distant day. The congregation at Abilene was organized in November, 1883, and the one at Enterprise in October, 1884, both by the Rev. D. B. Shuey, Superintendent. Neither, however, as yet, has a house of worship of its own, and they both will need the assistance of the church in removing this difficulty in the way of their progress. Until this is done the mission will labor under serious disadvantages. The missionary has made full proof of his ministry, and the prospects of the mission fully justify its organization by the Board one year ago. Congregations, 2. Members, 70. S. S. scholars, 75. Baptisms, 10. Additions, 18. Losses, none. For benevolence, \$9.45. For congregational purposes, \$239.10. The congregation at Abilene owns a lot of ground, for a church building, worth \$500. Appropriation last year, \$300. For coming year, \$300. Pastor, T. F. Staufer, commissioned November 16, 1884.

IOWA.

Superintendent's Report.—The Rev. D. S. Fouse, Missionary Superintendent of the Classis of Iowa, reports that the Wilton charge had formerly been self-sustaining, but that it was deemed best to separate it from Columbus Junction and constitute it a mission, as it has the prospect of soon becoming self-sustaining. He is of the opinion that there ought to be a mission in Des Moines, and that there is enough material left there to justify its establishment at an early day. He also directs the attention of the Board to Sioux City as presenting an excellent opening for the establishment of a mission. He says that there is quite a number of Reformed people in the city—as far as ascertained, at least 50—who are anxious to have a church and pastor, and express a willingness to support a new missionary enterprise when established among them. In a letter he was informed that one member had pledged himself to head a list with a subscription of \$100 for the support of a pastor, and of \$200 for the erection of a church. He also calls attention to Waterloo City and other points where we have members that should be looked after. He says the missionary field in Iowa is of the most encouraging character, and one that will return valuable results if the Classis is properly sustained by the Board in its missionary operations.

Liscomb Mission, Marshall Co.—Two congregations, St. Paul's, organized in 1880, and Grace in 1881, together with one preaching point. The congregations commenced respectively with 18 and 8 members. Members at present, 41. S. S. scholars, 109. Baptisms, 3. Additions, 11. For benevolence, \$87.84. For local objects, \$305. Only one church building. Property valued at \$2100. No indebtedness. Two missionary societies. The church papers are circulated in all the families. The mission paid \$75 of the appropriation made last year by the Board, and propose to assume a part for the coming year. Its prospects of self-support encouraging and the spiritual condition good. Appropriation last year, \$290. For the coming year, \$225. Henry Bair, commissioned October 1, 1881.

Pleasant Valley, Tremont Co.—One congregation and a preaching point. Members, 40. S. S. Scholars, 30. Baptisms, 3. Additions, 7. For benevolence, about \$50. Congregational purposes, \$115. Value of church property, \$1500. No indebtedness. The pastor reports that the condition of this mission is discouraging; that whilst some of the members of the mission faithfully sustain him in his work, others do not, and that, with much grief and many discouragements, he had endeavored to discharge his duties as a Christian minister during the past year. Appropriation last year, \$150. This year, \$150. Pastor, D. P. Lefever.

Wilton, Muscatine Co.—One congregation. Members, 38. S. S. Scholars, 50.

Baptisms, 5. Additions, 23. Losses 22. For benevolence for the last year, \$60, and for the last two years, \$113. For congregational purposes last year, \$1025; for the last two years, \$1500. This mission is weak in numbers, but it shows commendable activity and liberality in its efforts to sustain the means of grace. Under the care of the Classis of Iowa. Appropriation last year, \$150. This year, \$150. Pastor, S. R. Runkel. Commissioned July 1, 1883.

NEBRASKA.

Fair View and Ithaca.—Two congregations, one at Saunders Co., twenty-three miles from Lincoln, and the other at Ithaca. No property. Owing to the loss of crops of last year, less was given for the support of the gospel than during previous years. In all about \$100. Four baptisms and two additions. Services still held in school-houses are well attended. The missionary preaches every two weeks in Lincoln, a city of 22,000 inhabitants, in an out-of-the-way place, under discouraging circumstances. His labors can accomplish nothing more than to hold our members together until they are better provided for. No organization has, as yet, been effected. The opening here for a church is favorable, and a missionary ought to be located in this place without delay. Appropriation last year, \$275. This year, \$250. Pastor, Edmund Erb. Commissioned April 1, 1881.

CALIFORNIA.

San Francisco.—After the return of the Rev. D. E. Schoedler last fall to report to our Synods the condition of our missionary work in California, he asked permission to withdraw from his position as Superintendent of missions and missionary in California, which request was granted. The Rev. L. D. Leberman was appointed to take his place in the mission in San Francisco, and entered upon his duties there near the close of the year. He was kindly received, and the timely help extended to the mission by the Board and the two Eastern Synods, in assuming the indebtedness resting on the church building, for which a high interest had to be paid, has given a new impulse to the mission, and probably prevented it from disintegrating altogether. Brother Leberman was successful in rallying the congregation in its discouragements, and the way was thus opened for a healthy growth. But it has turned out that the climate has proved to be unfavorable to his constitution, and accordingly, for some months past, whilst he has been able to fill all his appointments in the church, he has not been able to attend to pastoral visitation. He therefore asks to be relieved from further labor at San Francisco, and to be assigned to some other mission in California. Forty members in the mission were reported last year, to which must be added a handsome accession made at the Easter communion. Appropriation last year to present pastor, \$675. Appropriation for coming year, \$400. Pastor, L. D. Leberman.

Stockton.—Two congregations. Members, 70. S. S. scholars, 59. Baptisms, 4. Additions, 3. Benevolence, \$2.50. Local objects, \$100 in three months. Value of property, \$6,000. The difficulties in this mission, mentioned in our last annual report, unfortunately were protracted all throughout the past year. The effort made to eject the persons who have violently held possession of the parsonage for several years has not yet been crowned with success. The case has been quite recently argued for the last time, but the decision of the judges had not as yet been rendered when our last advices were received from Stockton. It is believed that it will be favorable. Brother De Geller having met with much opposition and persecution in carrying forward the trial for the church building, thought it would be best for him to withdraw from the field and make room for a successor. His request was granted, and he left in March last. His place was filled by the Rev. D. D. Leberman last spring. He was kindly received by the congregation, but his health failed him, and by the advice of his physician he felt himself compelled reluctantly to return to the East.

The field is, therefore, again vacant. The ladies of the congregation, especially, have been active in sustaining the church, but it is not likely that it will make any considerable progress, until present difficulties are adjusted. It is believed that that event is not far distant. One congregation. Members, 70. S. S. scholars, 57. Appropriation last year, \$300. This year, \$—. Vacant.

Salem's Church, Napa.—One congregation. Members, 64. S. S. Scholars, 40. Baptisms, 18. Additions, 5. For congregational purposes, \$395. Value of property, \$2,000. No indebtedness. The mission has made no particular advance during the year, neither has it retrograded. The members are faithful in their adherence to the church. The pastor has a number of preaching points in the country around Napa, and during the year has been preaching at Calistoga, Ballejo, Bemaria and Yountville, within a radius of fifty miles; but with what result we are not informed. Appropriation last year, \$125. This year, \$—. Pastor, G. W. Maechtersheimer.

OREGON

Superintendent's Report.—Dr. Gantenbein, superintendent of missions, reports that with the assistance of Prof. Schiedt, he has been able to hold two services in his own congregation at Portland, kept up the academy and two Sunday-schools, held two services twice a month at Astoria, 100 miles from Portland, preached since November last at Washougal, Washington Territory, as often as he could, 30 miles distant, and several times on Gray River, W. T., 115 miles distant, and seven times at Stella (Oak Point), 60 miles distant. In order to do something for the youth at these outside points services had to be held twice a month when it was possible. For this and other reasons the Superintendent earnestly recommends, that Astoria and Gray River be detached from his charge and placed under the charge of a special missionary. Other points might be taken into the mission. Damascus and Sandy have been without attention for more than a year for the want of some one to occupy the field. A missionary is here needed soon, else our members will be gradually taken up by missionaries of other denominations. The Rev. H. A. Schwichtenberg has taken charge of the St. Peter's charge, which is self-sustaining and is commencing missionary work in Oregon City. The superintendent directs attention to other fields, such as Olympia, Victoria, Walla Walla and other points, where new missions ought to be established at as early a day as possible. The missionary fields in Oregon and Washington Territory are ripe for the harvest.

Portland.—Mr. Schiedt, our missionary at Portland, has been occupied in preaching in Portland and various points,—mission points under the supervision of the superintendent,—in superintending a mission Sunday-school in the suburbs of Portland, and as a teacher in the International Academy at Portland, under the care of the Classis, from which he in part derived his support. Feeling the necessity of further theological training he resigned his position and intends to pursue a full theological course in the seminary at Lancaster. In view of the withdrawal of this valuable laborer from the field, the Executive Council has commissioned the Rev. Theodore G. DeLyre to take his place. He has been instructed to establish a mission in Portland and vicinity, and is permitted to take Prof. Schiedt's place in the school, from which he is to derive part of his support. Mr. DeLyre was a licentiate of Lancaster Classis, and was ordained to the missionary work in Oregon, in St. Stephen's Church, in Lancaster on the 6th of September, leaving for his new sphere of labor on the day following. Appropriation, \$200. Commissioned September, 1885.

Salem.—Two congregations,—Salem and Mt. Pleasant. Members, 38. S. S. scholars, 40. Baptisms,—. Additions, 9. Benevolent objects, \$47. Congregational purposes, about \$250. Value of property, \$4500. Indebtedness, \$700, and interest at nine per cent. Reduction of debt by the congregation, \$50.

The \$500 advanced by the board to liquidate the indebtedness has been properly secured by a lien on the church property. The pastor preaches once a month at Mt. Pleasant and at other surrounding points, where the meetings are well attended, and where a new mission may probably be established at no distant day. The congregation at Salem is doing well, and its services are well attended. The Sunday-school is attended by old and young. In the parochial school the young are brought under the influence of the gospel, as well as taught our language and useful knowledge. The ladies meet monthly to work for the congregation, and a Missionstunde has been established, at which missionary topics are discussed. Appropriation last year, \$200. This year, \$175. Pastor, J. Muellhaupt.

West Union, Washington Co.—One congregation and four preaching places. Members, 32. S. S. scholars, 5. Baptisms, 12. Additions, 2. Losses, none. For benevolence, nothing. For congregational purposes, \$69.25. Value of property, \$400. No debt. The members in this mission are poor, but they do what they can for the church, and hear the word of God gladly. The Easter communion was an occasion of much interest and edification to the people. One individual came twenty miles to connect himself with the church. The pastor receives a meagre support. He and his family are very thankful for the missionary-box which was forwarded to them last winter from the Salem's congregation at Harrisburg, which proved to be very much needed in the family at the time. Appropriation last year, \$200. This year, \$200. Pastor, H. Stauss.

Stafford, Clackamas Co.—Three congregations,—Meriden (45 members), St. John's (17) and Waldo Hills (18). In all, 80. Sunday-school scholars, 45. Baptisms, 12. Additions, 30. Losses, 12. For benevolence, \$20. For congregational purposes, \$300. Each of the three congregations has its own house of worship, and one of them a parsonage, worth in all \$2000, without any indebtedness. The statistics show a healthy growth in all the congregations in this mission. The services in the sanctuary have been well attended, and the preaching of the gospel has been effective. Some who had been in the habit of making light of divine things have resumed their place in the church, and now have daily worship around the family altar. This mission has been served by its present pastor since its organization, in 1878. During this period Pastor Lange organized two other congregations,—St. Peter's, near Oregon City, and St. John's, at New Era, which now constitute a self-sustaining charge. Appropriation last year, \$150. This year, \$200. Pastor, Julius Lange, commissioned in 1878.

WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

Seattle.—One congregation. Members, 37. Communed, 18. S. S. scholars, 50. Baptisms, 12. Additions, 15. Losses, 12. For benevolent objects, \$20. For congregational purposes, \$295.50. Value of church property, \$2,500. Indebtedness, \$440. Reduction of indebtedness, \$300. This mission was organized January 1, 1882. The present pastor has been in the field since February, 1884. This mission is a very important one, but it is encompassed with many difficulties. The town is a new one, and the population floating. The German people are worldly-minded, and have, to a great extent, lost their faith in the institutions of the church. Still, some manifest a yearning for the Gospel, and such are drawn gradually towards the mission and its evangelical work. During the past year, amidst difficulties, it has made progress, which, no doubt, will increase as the mission shows that it is to be permanently established. There are German settlements to the north of Seattle, extending up to British Columbia, which are to be visited by the missionary at an early day. Appropriation last year, \$300. This year, \$300. Pastor, G. Graedel. Commissioned February 1, 1884.

CHILI, SOUTH AMERICA.

Valparaiso.—Pastor Kreuter has been diligent, in season and out of season, in building up this mission during the past year. He still preaches in a public hall, and seems to be gaining the confidence of the people, who had become distrustful in regard to missionary work among them on account of previous failure in efforts of this kind. His congregation, with about 25 members, and the Sunday-school are growing. His services in visiting the sick from house to house and in the hospital, have been appreciated, and have helped to draw the attention of the worldly to Christ and His Church. The importance of a Reformed Mission in Chili is difficult to over-estimate. The prospects are that if the beginning here made is properly sustained, the Reformed Church will become the strongest evangelical body in the country. Chili is the land for the Sweitzer and the German farmer. Of the immigration, which is yearly increasing, 71 per cent. are Swiss, and 14 Germans. The steamers from Liverpool arrive twice a month, and nearly every one brings with it a load of immigrants. In two vessels that arrived in one month there were 345 colonists. It is important that several other missionaries should be sent into this field at once, to occupy Santiago, the capital, and other points in the south. Appropriation last year, \$300. This year, \$300. Pastor, A. Kreuter. Commissioned April 1, 1884.

NEW YORK.

New York. St. Paul's German Evangelical Church.—One congregation. Members, 225. S. S. scholars, 257. Baptisms, 162. Additions, 17. Funerals, 34. Parochial school with 44 scholars. Sunday-school papers, 200. For benevolence, \$150. For local objects, over \$700. No debt, but a ground-rent of \$475 has to be paid annually. A well-organized missionary and Sunday-school society, weekly prayer-meeting, at which elders take part in prayer, and in the absence of the pastor, conduct the meeting to edification. German service in the forenoon, English in the evening. Both languages used in the Sunday-school and in the catechetical class. The mission is under the care of the Board of the German Synod of the East, but has all along been aided by this Board. The pastor and consistory are at present engaged in an effort to raise money to purchase the lot on which the church stands, for \$10,500, or to purchase and build in some other locality, and have sent forth an appeal to our congregations for help. This forward movement, just at this time, is necessary to the further growth of the mission, and is worthy of the liberal support of our churches, both English and German. Appropriation from this Board last year, \$150. This year, \$150. Pastor, F. Fox. Commissioned April 14, 1880.

URSINUS UNION.

From the Treasurer of Ursinus Union, the Rev. F. W. Kremer, D. D., we learn that he has received \$1486.39 for missions during the past year, which amount was in part devoted to the support of missionaries under different boards of the church, our own included.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

From an examination of the books of the Treasurer it appears that the income from all sources during the year for missions to date was \$17,632, and for church extension, \$1039. This is something less than what was reported last year. It is owing to the fact that considerably less passed through the hands of the treasurer than during the preceding year, when over \$2500 for Kansas missions were reported. During the past year, as usual, a large amount was raised for church extension, which was not reported through the Treasurer. The amount, however, raised for the support of the missions is in excess of what was reported during the previous year. For the year 1883-84, it was

\$15,272; for the year 1884-85, it was \$17,632, showing that notwithstanding the dull times, there has been encouraging growth in the liberality of our churches in the support of the missionary cause, the increase being \$2360. It will be more than this when the Treasurer's Report is closed in a few weeks.

For the coming year the Board asks \$22,000 to carry forward our missionary work, and for which we recommend that the Synods apportion among the classes the following amounts:

The Synod of the United States	\$12,000
The Synod of the Potomac	5,500
The Synod of Pittsburgh	4,500

And we further recommend that the sum of at least \$5000 be raised in the three Synods for church extension and church building purposes, either by regular apportionment or in any other way best adapted to secure the end in view: \$2500 by the Synod of the United States; \$1500 by the Synod of the Potomac; \$1000 by the Synod of Pittsburgh.

SUMMARY.

Number of Missions	64
" " Congregations	102
" " Missionaries	58
" " Members	5,323
" " S. S. Scholars	5,162
Baptisms	606
Additions	755
Losses	251
Amount Collected for Benevolence	\$ 2,014
" " " Local Objects	24,935
Estimated Value of Property	224,524
Indebtedness	20,362
Reduction of Debt	3,247

CONCLUSION.

Thus it appears that with the favor of Divine Providence we have enjoyed another year of prosperity in our missionary operations. Notwithstanding the stringency of the times, our missions have held their own, and in nearly all of them there has been some advance forward. Our congregations and pastors are coming to be more and more of one mind that it is our privilege as well as our duty to supply the destitute—in waste places—with the bread of life. The gifts of our people are increasing in amount from year to year; and it is our privilege again to say, that the churches in the three eastern Synods, have contributed more freely for missions during the last year than they did during any previous year in their history. For all this it becomes us to humble ourselves, to thank God, to take courage, and to seek to press forward more vigorously in the years as they come and go. It ought, however, be remembered that we have not as yet accomplished what we can easily accomplish, if we were as a people of one mind in the spread of the gospel, which is the chief business of the Christian Church. We have, with the divine blessing, made an encouraging beginning, but there is still a much greater work for us to do as a people. And this we will be willing to do, in the degree in which we are filled with the Spirit of Christ, God thus helping us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lancaster, Pa., Oct. 1, 1885.

THEODORE APPEL, *Superintendent.*

TREASURER'S REPORT.

To the Board of Missions of the Reformed Church in the United States:

I beg leave to submit my annual report of the finances of the Board for the fiscal year ending October 10th, 1885.

The contributions received for Home Missions, Church Extension and Washington Mission during the year and the disbursements made are shown by the subjoined statement, viz.:

Synod of the United States.

Received of the Classis of Philadelphia	\$272 45
" " Tohickon	637 30
" " Goshenhoppen	727 74
" " East Pennsylvania	1264 42
" " Lebanon	1507 39
" " Schuylkill	206 74
" " Lancaster	757 59
" " East Susquehanna	953 37
" " West Susquehanna	902 28
" " Lehigh	1145 23
Total from the Synod of the United States	———— \$8374 51

Synod of the Potomac.

Received of the Classis of Maryland	\$1307 89
" " Mercersburg	565 41
" " Juniata	1240 29
" " Carlisle	489 06
" " Zion	230 00
" " Gettysburg	580 00
" " Virginia	299 03
" " North Carolina	84 54
" " Iowa	474 74
" " Oregon	7 20
" " Kansas	5 00
Total from the Synod of the Potomac	———— \$5283 16

Synod of Pittsburgh.

Received from the Treasurer of Synod \$3134 99

Miscellaneous Sources.

From Locke legacy (principal)	\$2288 68
" " " (interest)	159 08
" Ladies' Missionary Society of Forreston, Ill., per Mrs. John Zollinger	17 00
" Adalnide Dechant's legacy (interest)	7 20
" Gerhart legacy (interest)	6 00
" St. Paul's Evan. Reformed Church, New York City	8 00
" an unknown lady friend	500 00
" Ursinus Union	200 00
" Loans	1000 00
Balance in Treasury Sept. 16, 1884	2675 44
Total from Miscellaneous Sources	———— \$6861 40
Total from all sources	———— \$23,654 06

Disbursements.

Orders of the Board paid during the year by the Treasurer of Pittsburgh Synod and the Treasurer of the Board . . .	\$18,179 58
Loan made to the First Reformed Church of San Francisco, Cal., secured by a judgment	3288 00
Balance in the Treasury, October 10, 1885	2186 48
Total	\$23,654 06

Church Extension Fund.

DR.

To Balance in the Treasury September 16, 1884	\$310 72
To amount received during the year for missions in Kansas and collected for the same by Rev. D. B. Shuey	517 60
To amount received from Rev. Wm. M. Deatrick, Treasurer of Mercersburg Classis	87 50
To amount received from Rev. N. S. Strassburger, Treasurer of Lehigh Classis	126 00
To amount received from Rev. S. S. Miller, Treasurer of Maryland Classis	40 00
To amount received for Church of the Strangers, West Philadelphia, from Henry Wirt, Hanover, Pa.	100 00
To amount received from James T. Reber, Treas. Schuylkill Classis, received of Dr. B. Bausman	50 00
To amount received from Rev. J. A. Peters, Danville, Pa	25 86
To amount received from Egypt Charge, Lehigh Co., Pa.	15 00
To amount received from Rev. J. G. Dengler	25 00
To amount received from sundry sources and for sundry objects	39 00
Total from all sources	\$1336 68

CR.

By amount paid Rev. H. D. Darbaker	\$22 00
By amount paid St. Peter's Church, Oregon	100 00
By amount paid Reformed Church, Seattle, W. T.	15 10
By amount paid Rev. Bausmann, Shepherdstown, W. Va.	20 00
By amount paid Rev. G. H. Johnston for use of the Church of the Strangers, West Philadelphia	321 86
By amount paid Rev. D. B. Shuey, for Churches in Kansas	470 65
Balance in Treasury October 10, 1885	387 07
Total	\$1336 68

Washington Mission Fund.

DR.

To Balance in Treasury September 16, 1884	\$26 00
To amount received from Rev. U. H. Heilman, Treas. Carlisle Classis from Landisburg Charge	5 88
To amount received from I. G. Gerhart, Treas. Tohickon Classis, in full of assessment	24 33
To amount received from Rev. F. W. Kremer, Treas. of Mission Fund of Ursinus Union, from Rev. Eli Keller's Charge	12 60
To amount received per D. B. Mauger, Treas. of Goshenhoppen Classis	98 00
Total from all sources	\$166 81

By amount paid Mrs. A. V. L. Miller, on account of a note held by her against the Board	\$100 00
By Balance in Treasury October 10, 1885	66 81
Total	———— *\$166 81

Respectfully submitted,

Harrisburg, Oct. 10, 1885.

WM. H. SEIBERT, *Treasurer.*

We, the undersigned, a Committee appointed by the Board of Missions of the Reformed Church in the United States to audit the account of William H. Seibert, Treasurer of said Board, respectfully report that we have attended to the duty enjoined upon us and find the said Treasurer's account correct with balances in the several funds as stated within.

GEORGE KUNKEL.

October 12, 1885.

W. H. H. SNYDER.

REPORT OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

To the Synod of the Potomac:

The Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in the United States, in accordance with the instructions of the General Synod, would respectfully report that the present condition of the work in the foreign field is encouraging and promising. A number of preaching-places have been recently established, and services are held regularly by the senior missionary, assisted by two evangelists and several catechists. The number of converts has steadily increased until we now number one hundred in Japan.

The Board selected Rev. William E. Hoy, who was recently ordained and commissioned at Mifflinburg, Pa., in connection with the meeting of the Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States. He will shortly leave for his field. On his arrival, or as soon as possible, the Classis of Japan is to be organized, so that the work may be carried forward in accordance with our ecclesiastical order, and the Board be assisted in its work by the judgment and decisions of the Classis.

The Board also elected two ladies to go to Japan for the purpose mainly of instituting a seminary for females: Miss Lizzie B. Poorbaugh, of Berlin, Pa., and Miss Mary B. Ault, of Littlestown, Pa. It is important that these ladies go as early as possible, as some time is essential for them to prepare for their work.

The location, plans, etc., for a seminary building is a question for the future, and will depend largely upon changes which may take place in the government of Japan. In the mean time, the pledge scheme should go forward until the specified sum is raised.

It is evident that to carry forward our present work and to meet the expenses of increased work, it will require the earnest co-operation of the whole Church. It is imperatively necessary that Misses Poorbaugh and Ault be sent out to the field. It is also a loud challenge to the Reformed Church, that the way is opening for her in such a wonderful manner.

We commend the subject to your earnest and prayerful attention.

T. S. JOHNSTON, *Secretary.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Missions begs leave to present the following report:

There were referred to your committee the report of the Tri-Synodic Board of Missions, the Superintendent's Report, the Treasurer's Report, the Report of the Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and a letter from Rev. J. Gantebain in reference to the missionary educational work in Oregon.

From the Report of the Superintendent of Missions, it appears that the number of missions, under the care of the Board, is sixty-four, which are enjoying the services of fifty-eight missionaries. The fruits of their labors appear, in part, in the report of six hundred and six baptisms, seven hundred and fifty-five additions to the membership,—also, the contribution to objects of benevolence of \$2,014, and for local interests of \$24,935.

We are not surprised that, in the midst of business depression, there should be increased additions to the Church; for often in the Church's history, as men found their earthly treasures disappearing, they began to lay up treasures in heaven. But the contributions, both for benevolent and local objects, have also increased, thus showing us that faith and good works have gone hand in hand. These results are encouraging. When we sow, we desire to reap. The Church's increasing interest in missions is meeting with reward, and during the coming year we can point to the results already attained as an incentive to attempt more.

We regret to have to report six missions as vacant, and trust these vacancies reported every year will soon cease to be, because of the number of young men coming forward to fill new places and the positions of those who have fallen in the work of the Lord.

The Treasurer's report shows the gross receipts for the year to have been \$23,654.06, and the disbursements \$21,467.58, leaving a balance in the treasury of \$2,186.48. The gross receipts of the Church Extension Fund have been \$1,336.68, and disbursements \$949.61, leaving a balance in the treasury of \$387.07. Washington Mission Chapel Fund shows receipts to have been \$166.81, and disbursements \$100, leaving a balance in the treasury of \$66.81.

The Board estimates its wants for the coming year at \$22,000, and asks this Synod to raise \$5,500 of that amount.

The Board nominated Rev. Theodore Appel to the office of Superintendent of Missions,

The Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions report that the present condition of the work in the foreign field is encouraging. A number of preaching-places have been established, at which services are held regularly. Rev. William E. Hoy was recently ordained and commissioned to go as a missionary to Japan, for which he expects to depart shortly. On his arrival in that far-off land, the Classis of Japan is to be formed. Two ladies, Miss Lizzie B. Poorbaugh and Miss Mary B. Ault, are to be sent to Japan, to establish there a female seminary.

Rev. J. Gantenbein, Missionary Superintendent in Oregon, writes to the Synod, telling of the success attending the work of the Missionary Institute in Portland, Oregon, and asks permission to visit the territory of the Synod, here in the East, to collect money for the purpose of buying a property for missionary educational work.

Your committee would recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That this Synod accepts the sum of \$5,500 as its portion of the wants of the Board for the ensuing year, and that said amount be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, to be apportioned upon the several Classes.

Resolved, That the Classes of Zion and Carlisle, still owing money to the Washington Mission Chapel Fund, be earnestly requested to pay it at once.

Resolved, That the pastors of this Synod be urgently requested to present the claims of our foreign mission interests to their respective charges on or before the first Sunday in January, 1886.

Resolved, That liberal contributions be solicited from every congregation and Sunday-school within the bounds of this Synod, on some Sunday before January 1st, 1886, with a view to secure the funds required to meet the expenses of sending to Japan Miss Mary B. Ault, one of the lady missionaries already chosen.

Resolved, That a copy of this action be sent as early as possible to every pastor of this Synod.

Resolved, That this Synod rejoices in the success attending the labors of Rev. J. Gantenbein in the missionary educational work in Oregon, and cordially invites him to visit the charges in our territory, whose pastors deem it a fit time to canvass their fields for the purpose of securing funds for the Missionary Institute at Portland.

Respectfully submitted,

E. N. KREMER, *Chairman.*

FORMATION OF THE CLASSIS OF JAPAN AUTHORIZED.

On motion, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That a Classis be formed in Japan as soon as the constitutional provisions can be met, the Classis to be known as the Classis of Japan of the Reformed Church in the United States, and to constitute a part of the Synod of the Potowac; and, further, that the senior missionary, Rev. Ambrose D. Gring, be appointed to preside at the organization of said Classis.

An election for Superintendent of Home Missions, to serve for four years, was held on Friday afternoon, the nominees being Revs. Theodore Appel and A. C. Whitmer, when the latter was chosen Superintendent. Subsequently, the following was adopted:

Resolved, That this Synod holds in grateful recognition the valuable services of Rev. Theodore Appel, Superintendent of Missions, for a period of eight years, and will follow him with our best wishes for his success in whatever sphere of labor the Lord may open for him.

The usual Synodical Missionary Anniversary was held on Saturday evening, when addresses were delivered, as arranged for by the Committee on Religious Services. A collection, in cash and pledges, amounting to \$545.00, was lifted for the purpose of erecting a Chapel in Wichita, Kansas, to be called the Brown Memorial Chapel, in memory of the Rev. Isaac G. Brown, missionary, who died there at his post of duty, last May.

As regards the several amounts apportioned to the Classes for Home Missions, by the Synod at Hanover last year, it was ascertained from the Report of the Treasurer of the Tri-Synodical Board of Missions, that the Juniata and Mercersburg Classes alone had fully met their apportionments, contributing more than the amounts assigned them by the Synod at Hanover; whilst the other Classes fell short of their apportionments.

At the election for members of the different Boards, Revs. J. T. Barkley and J. C. Bowman were elected members of the Synodic Board of Missions for the period of four years.

MEMBERS OF THE SYNODIC BOARD OF MISSIONS AND TERMS OF
SERVICE.

Revs. J. T. Barkley and J. C. Bowman for four years; Revs. E. R. Eschbach and E. N. Kremer for three years; Rev G. W. Welker for two years; and Rev. J. O. Miller and Elder J. T. Motter for one year.

ARTICLE XV.

FINANCE.

The Annual Reports of the Treasurers of Synod for the past year were presented to the Synod, read, and then referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, for the purpose of being audited. The Reports are as follows:

LOUIS MARKELL, *Treasurer, in account with the Synod of the Potomac.*

DB.

Oct. 16, 1884. To balance, cash on hand \$216.21

Oct. 20, 1884. To amount of missionary collection at Synod of Han-		18.94
over		
Nov. 21, 1884. To cash of Virginia Classis for Roanoke Mission ap-		75.00
portionment		
Nov. 21, 1884. To cash of Virginia Classis for Concord Mission appor-		38.00
tionment		
Dec. 6, 1884. To cash of Carlisle Classis in part for contingent fund,		
Newton assessment		22.58
" To cash from same, for Mercersburg College		15.81
Dec. 18, 1884 " of Zion's Classis for Roanoke Mission		61.20
" " " " " Mercersburg College		15.69
" " " " " Contingent Fund, Altoona		
assessment		7.54
	Total	\$470.97

CR.

Oct. 17, 1884. By cash for freight on Minutes of General Synod	\$2.13	
" 17, " " for expenses of Synod at Hanover	25.00	
" 20, " " remitted to Treas. Wm. H. Seibert	18.94	
Dec. 10, " " for tracts on Additional Professorships	7.50	
" 12, " " for expenses of Endowment Committee	2.50	
Jan. 26, 1885. By balance paid Dr. L. H. Steiner	414.90	
	Total	\$470.97

LEWIS H. STEINER, *Treasurer, in account with the Synod of the Potomac.*

1885.

DR.

Jan. 26. To cash of Louis Markell, former Treasurer	\$414.90
May 4. To cash of Carlisle Classis	9.42
June 6. To cash of Mercersburg Classis, Contingent Fnnd of General	
Synod	16.00
" 6. To cash of Mercersburg Classis, Contingent Fund of Synod	35.00
" 6. To cash of Mercersburg Classis, Mercersburg College Assess-	
ment	30.00
" 6. To cash of Mercersburg Classis, Theological Seminary Appor-	
tionment	30.00
July 2. To cash of Maryland Classis, Contingent Fund of General	
Synod	45.00
" 2. To cash of Maryland Classis, Continent Fund of Synod	90.00
Aug. 5. To cash of Virginia Classis, Contingent Fund of General	
Synod	14.00
" 5. To cash of Virginia Classis, Contingent Fund of Synod	30.00
" 5. To cash of Virginia Classis, Mercersburg College Assessment	30.00
" 5. To cash of Virginia Classis, Theological Seminary Apportion-	
ment	30.00
" 5. To cash of Virginia Classis, Harbor Missions Apportionment	30.00
Sep. 11. To cash of Juniata Classis, Contingent Fund of General	
Synod	25.00
" 11. To cash of Juniata Classis, Contingent Fund of Synod	65.00
" 11. To cash of Juniata Classis, Mercersburg College Assessment	50.00
" 29. To cash of Maryland Classis, Mercersburg College Assessment	80.00
" 29. To cash of Maryland Classis, Harbor Missions Apportion-	
ment	90.00
" 29. To cash of Maryland Classis, Theological Seminary Apportion-	
ment	101.28
Oct. 2. To cash of Zion's Classis, Contingent Fund of General Synod	18.00
" 2. To cash of Zion's Classis, Contingent Fund of Synod	35.00

Oct. 16. To cash of North Carolina Classis, Contingent Fund of General Synod	14.00
“ 16. To cash of North Carolina Classis, Contingent Fund of Synod	30.00
“ 16. To cash of North Carolina Classis, Theological Seminary Apportionment	5.00
	—
	Total \$1,317.60

1885.	Cr.	
Jan. 26. By cash to stated clerk, expenses	\$ 12.00	
“ 26. By cash to Treasurer of Board of Education, interest on Stoudenour Legacy, due Dec. 16	12.00	
“ 26. By cash to Treasurer of N. C. Classis for Concord Mission	40.00	
“ 26. By cash to Reformed Church Publication Board, printing Minutes of Synod	159.14	
May 13. By cash to Rev. W. R. H. Deatrich, travelling expenses, Board of Visitors	4.00	
“ 13. By cash to Rev. A. H. Kremer, travelling expenses, Board of Visitors	2.92	
June 6. By cash to Rev. W. M. Deatrich, salary as stated clerk	100.00	
“ 6. By cash to Rev. G. E. Addams, interest on Breechbill Legacy, one year	12.00	
July 2. By cash to Rev. S. S. Miller, travelling expenses, Board of Regents	5.50	
Sep. 17. By cash to President of Board of Regents of Mercersburg College	110.00	
“ 29. By cash to Rev. E. R. Eschbach, travelling expenses, Board of Visitors	6.25	
“ 29. By cash to Treasurer of Theological Seminary	101.28	
Oct. 6. By cash to President Board of Regents of Mercersburg College	80.00	
Oct. 13. By cash to I. H. Keefer, travelling expenses, Board of Trustees of Seminary	15.75	
“ 15. By cash to Rev. J. O. Miller, travelling expenses, Board of Visitors	3.75	
“ 19. Balance on hand	653.01	
	Total \$1,317.60	

ARREARAGES.

A careful examination reveals the following unpaid assessments and apportionments, to wit:

Washington Mission Chapel Apportionment: Zion's Classis \$268.75 and Carlisle Classis \$71.49.

Concord Mission Church Apportionment: Carlisle Classis \$40.00.

Roanoke Mission Apportionment, changed to Church Extension: Maryland Classis, \$218.00; Gettysburg Classis \$162.00; Juniata Classis \$153.00; Carlisle Classis \$80.00; North Carolina Classis \$75.00; and Zion's Classis \$21.10.

Harbor Mission Apportionment: Gettysburg Classis \$60.00; Zion's Classis \$35.00; and Carlisle Classis \$30.00.

Theological Seminary Apportionments: Gettysburg Classis \$50.00; Zion's Classis \$50.00; Juniata Classis \$50.00; and Carlisle Classis \$40.00.

Assessment for Contingent Fund of General Synod: Gettysburg Classis \$25.00; Carlisle Classis \$14.00; San Francisco Classis \$2.00; and Portland-Oregon Classis \$2.00.

Assessments for Contingent Fund of Synod: Gettysburg Classis \$65.00; Carlisle Classis \$30.00; San Francisco Classis \$13.00; North Carolina Classis \$5.00 (1881); San Francisco Classis \$3.00; and Portland-Oregon, Classis \$3.00.

Assessments for Mercersburg College: Zion's Classis \$54.31; Gettysburg Classis \$50.00; Carlisle Classis \$38.98; and North Carolina Classis \$20.00 (1883).

Printing Establishment and Theological Seminary, (1861): Zion's Classis \$103.65.

STATED CLERK.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

The Standing Committee on Finance presented its report during the session of Monday forenoon, which was received and adopted, and is as follows:

Your Committee on Finance respectfully report: We have audited the Treasurer's Report, compared it with the vouchers and found it correct.

We have made the following apportionment and assessment to meet expenses for the Synodical year, to wit:

Apportionment for Home Missions.

Maryland Classis \$1,450.00, Juniata Classis \$920.00, Gettysburg Classis \$920.00, Mercersburg Classis \$560.00, Zion's Classis \$550.00, Virginia Classis \$475.00, Carlisle Classis \$450.00, North Carolina Classis \$225.00, San Francisco Classis \$50.00, and Portland-Oregon Classis \$50.00. Making \$5,650.00.

Assessment for Contingent Fund, including Theological Seminary, Mercersburg College, General Synod and Synodical expenses: Maryland Classis \$300.00, Juniata Classis \$190.00, Gettysburg Classis \$190.00, Mercersburg Classis \$115.00, Zion's Classis \$115.00, Carlisle Classis \$105.00, Virginia Classis \$105.00, North Carolina Classis \$50.00, San Francisco Classis \$10.00, and Portland-Oregon Classis \$10.00. Making \$1,190.00.

Respectfully submitted,

CYRUS CORT, Chairman.

On motion, the following resolution was reaffirmed, to wit:

Resolved, That the Treasurer of Synod be directed to charge interest on all assessments for Contingent Fund of Synod, if not paid on or before the first day of August following the time of assessment.

A special committee, consisting of Elders H. Wirt, G. S. Griffith and M. E. Doll, to elaborate a plan for paying money into the Treasury of Synod, was appointed, with instructions to report to the next annual meeting of the Synod.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SYNOD.

The Board of Trustees of Synod presented its annual report to the Synod during the session of Thursday forenoon, which was received and adopted, and is as follows:

The Board of Trustees of the Synod of the Potomac would report that, having met in conformity with the charter, the Board has nothing special to report to the Synod, except that the term of Rev. J. T. Rossiter as Trustee will expire on the 1st of January, 1886, and his successor should be elected at this meeting of the Synod.

Respectfully submitted by order of the Board,

J. TAYLOR MOTTER, Secretary.

At the election for members of the several Boards of the Synod, Elder Mellville E. Doll was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the Synod for the term of five years from January 1, 1886.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND TERMS OF SERVICE.

Elder M. E. Doll, five years; Dr. L. H. Steiner, four years; Rev. E. R. Eschbach, three years; Rev. A. H. Kremer, two years; and Elder J. T. Motter, one year.

ARTICLE XVI.

APPEALS AND REFERENCES.

Items 1 and 2 of the Report on Overtures, and item 11 of the Report on Minutes of Classes, were referred for consideration to a special committee, consisting of Revs. A. J. Heller, S. L. Whitmore and Elder A. Mickley. This committee reported, during the session of Monday forenoon, as follows, which was received and adopted, to wit:

Your committee, to whom items 1 and 2 of the Report on Overtures and item 11 of the Report on Minutes of Classes were referred, would report that we have examined the documents relating to them, and find the first only, namely, that against certain action of the Classis, in order. We recommend the following order for the hearing of said complaint: 1. That the time for the hearing of the complaint be immediately after the adoption of this report. 2. That the documents relating to the complaint be read. 3. That the complainants and defendants be allotted twenty minutes, respectively, for prosecution and defence, and that the Synod then proceed to vote at once on the merits of the case.

Respectfully submitted,

A. J. HELLER, *Chairman.*

No one appearing upon the floor of Synod to prosecute the complaint, and having sent no reason for such absence, the complaint was considered as abandoned, and the action of the Juniata Classis in the case stands confirmed by the Synod.

ARTICLE XVII.

COMPLAINTS.

Nothing occurred under this head, except as included under the heading of Appeals and References.

ARTICLE XVIII.

SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.

The Sunday-school Board presented its Annual Report to the Synod, during the session of Wednesday afternoon, which was received, considered item by item, and then adopted as a whole. It is as follows:

Dear Brethren:

The Sunday-school Board begs leave to present the following report to the Synod.

It is with devout gratitude to the Great Head of the Church that we recognize the growing power and efficiency of the Sunday-school in spiritual work. The District Sunday-school Conventions, which have been held regularly, and attended not only by pastors and teachers, but also by Christian people generally, have aroused new interest in the Sunday-school cause.

The intimate relation of the Sunday-school to the Church is more fully recognized from year to year. The Sunday-schools are taking increased interest in the mission-work of the Church, both Home and Foreign. And the Orphan Homes and the Temperance cause are given more attention and heartier support.

We believe, however, that the Sunday-school cause of the Reformed Church would be further advanced by the annual observance of a Children's Day, with suitable services in the respective Sunday-schools and churches of the Synod, and, if thought advisable, we would suggest that the last Sunday in May, or some other Sunday, be set apart for the purpose.

The Board would also report the sum of \$59.00 in the hands of the Treasurer

of the Board at the close of the last fiscal year. Since then the collection and interest have amounted to \$10.28, making a total of \$69.28 at present in the treasury.

We hereby also submit the following questions for the discussion at the Sunday-school Anniversary meeting, which we recommend to be held on Thursday evening of the present sessions of the Synod: Question 1.—How can Sunday-school teachers labor most effectually to secure the conversion of their scholars? Speakers, Revs. F. F. Bahner and S. L. Whitmore. Question 2.—What is the Best Method to instruct the Infant Class? Speakers, Revs. E. R. Eschbach and E. N. Kremer.

Respectfully submitted,
G. S. GRIFFITH, *Chairman.*

The portion of the Report having reference to holding anniversary services was referred to the Standing Committee on Religious Service to arrange for the Anniversary at the time recommended.

The portion of the Report referring to the observance of a Children's Day was referred to a special committee, composed of Revs. C. Cort, E. R. Eschbach and A. C. Geary, for consideration. This committee subsequently reported, which was received, amended and adopted, as follows, to wit:

The committee to whom was referred the item from the Report of the Sunday-school Board respecting the observance of a Children's Day respectfully report, as follows:

At the meeting of this Synod in Newton, N. C., a request was sent up to the General Synod of Baltimore to appoint such a day, to secure uniformity in this matter throughout the entire Church. The General Synod, however, refused to accede to our request. Since then a Children's Day has been appointed by the Synod of Ohio, and also by the Pittsburgh Synod, and we believe that good results will flow from the designation of such a day by this body; therefore,

Resolved, That this Synod designates the last Sunday in September next as a suitable time for a *Children's Day*, and recommend the congregations under this judicatory to observe that day for the purposes specified.

Resolved, further, That we recommend, that all the services of the day designated be for the special benefit of the children, and suited as much as possible to their capacity.

Resolved, still further, That all the collections lifted on that day be devoted to strictly benevolent purposes.

CYRUS CORT, *Chairman.*

At the election held for members of the different Boards of the Synod, Rev. D. N. Dittmar was elected a member of the Sunday-school Board for the period of five years.

MEMBERS OF THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL BOARD AND TERMS OF SERVICE.

Rev. D. N. Dittmar, five years; Elder G. S. Griffith, four years; Rev. F. F. Bahner, three years; Rev. W. R. H. Deatrich, two years; and Rev. B. R. Carnahan, one year.

ARTICLE XIX.

CHURCH GOVERNMENT.

The ratio of representation, when the Synod shall meet as a delegated body, adopted by the Synod at the last annual meeting, and sent down to the Classes for their concurrence or non-concurrence, was concurred in by the constitutional number of the Classes, as seen from item 22 of the Report on Minutes of Classes, and was duly declared adopted by the President of Synod.

ARTICLE XX.

PUBLICATION.

The following report was submitted by the Stated Clerk, in connection with item 28 of the Report on Minutes of Synod, which was received and adopted :

REPORT ON PUBLISHING THE MINUTES.

The undersigned begs leave to report, that he attended to the duty assigned him, and had two thousand copies of the Acts and Proceedings of the Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Synod printed and bound in pamphlet form, and distributed them agreeably to the rules and regulations in the case. The work was done by the Reformed Church Publication Board, at the cost of \$159.14, which was promptly paid by the Treasurer of Synod. The bill was greater than that of previous years, but only so because the minutes were larger, the cost per page being unchanged.

Respectfully submitted,

Wm. M. DEATRICK, *Chairman.*

REPORT OF PUBLICATION BOARD.

To the Synods in the United States, Pittsburgh and Potomac :

The Publication Board of the Reformed Church in the United States would respectfully submit the following Report:—

The Board held three regular sessions during the year. The Officers of the preceding year were continued, viz.:—George Gelbach, Esq., *President*, and Rev. Chas. G. Fisher, *Secretary and Treasurer*.

From the Annual Statement submitted by the *Superintendent*, Rev. Charles G. Fisher, at the last meeting, September 3d, is to be gathered the following:—

AMOUNT OF BUSINESS FOR 1885:

Subscriptions in Periodical Department	\$25,650.00
Sales in Book Department	16,746.87
Total	\$42,396.87

RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING JULY 31ST, 1885:

From Periodicals.	\$23,311.29
" Book Store	14,919.23
" Rents	518.00
" Collections	248.00
" Miscellaneous Sources.	701.08
Total Receipts.	\$39,697.60

DISBURSEMENTS:

Loans, etc., paid.	\$150.00
Printing, Paper and Binding.	19,123.41
Interest	2,528.60
Commissions	863.54
Merchandise	4,894.54
Salaries.	6,350.90
Taxes and Insurance.	1,015.00
Postage and Expressage	750.90
Miscellaneous.	2,984.64
Total Disbursements.	\$38,661.53
Excess of Receipts.	\$1,036.07

LIABILITIES—1885:

Notes on which Interest is paid.	\$27,361.90
Mortgage on Building	15,000.00
Miscellaneous.	<u>6,277.66</u>
 Total 1885	\$48,639.56
Liabilities 1884	<u>47,340.60</u>
 Increase of Liabilities.	\$1,298.96

ASSETS, 1885:

As estimated by Committee:

Book Accounts.	\$3,925.00
Periodical Accounts	13,841.00
Stock in Store	5,627.69
Books in Sheets	3,451.00
Paper on Hand	506.00
Stereotype Plates	3,500.00
Miscellaneous	4,829.00
Real Estate	<u>35,000.00</u>
 Total 1885.	\$70,679.69
Total 1884.	<u>68,896.93</u>
 Increase of Assets.	\$1,782.76
Assets.	\$70,679.69
Liabilities,	<u>48,639.56</u>
 Excess of Assets.	\$22,040.13

The Committee appointed to examine Stock, etc., submitted the following report, which was adopted:

PHILADELPHIA, September 3d, 1885.

To the Publication Board of the Reformed Church in the United States:

Your Committee appointed to take account of Stock and examine into the Accounts of the Board, beg leave to offer the following as our report:—

1st. We have carefully gone over the books and other stock in the store, and made an estimate of what we believe to be their actual value as set forth in the Superintendent's report. While there are still some unsalable goods on hand, as there always will be, yet the bulk of our stock is fresh and in good condition.

2d. We find nearly \$20,000 due on book and periodical accounts (exclusive of nearly \$4,000 of long standing and very little of which can be collected). It goes without saying that, to lose the interest on so large an amount due us, and then pay interest to others for the use of a like amount, consumes a very large share of our profits. We recommend that our Superintendent send a special appeal, in the name of the Board, urging delinquents to pay up their accounts, since by their neglect to do so they are embarrassing and crippling our operations.

3d. We are glad to report that the receipts of the establishment have exceeded the disbursements by over \$1,000.

4th. There has been an increase of about \$1,300 in liabilities, and an increase of nearly \$1,800 in assets over last year.

Of course, our assets may be worth considerably more than we estimate them, but it is always best to be on the safe side.

On the whole, we regard the affairs of the Board as being in a very satisfactory condition, notwithstanding the general depression of the times, and we believe that the superintendent and employees have all done their work faithfully and well.

In view of the large amount needed to meet interest indebtedness (for which

this Board is not responsible), we would ask the Synods to urge their congregations to contribute by collections or otherwise, annually, and as liberally as possible, to meet this necessity.

G. S. GRIFFITH,
GEO. GELBACH,
J. W. LOVE.

The report of the Superintendent also shows that during the year there has been a slight falling off in the number of subscribers to the Church periodicals, and a marked increase in that of the Sunday-school, with one exception. The cause for the decrease in the former is to be accounted for, doubtless, in the stringency of the times, and the failure of pastors and others to see that subscribers continue their subscriptions, or to interest themselves so much as to have their members generally become readers of the Church paper. The reason for the great increase in the latter is, no doubt, chiefly owing to the growing desire to have the helps of our own Church used in the schools instead of those issued by outside irresponsible persons. There is still room for a greater circulation of them, and it is to be hoped that at no distant day there will not be a single school within our bounds that does not use the helps issued by your Board.

In the Book Department a fair and careful business has been done during the year, the times affecting its sales also to some extent. The number of books, tracts and services of different kinds printed for this department during the year was 52,450.

In reference to the matter of transferring the management of the Publishing Interests to a company of private individuals referred to the Board by the Synods—United States and Potomac—at their respective meetings last October, the Board, after duly considering the whole subject at its meeting in December last, unanimously concluded that in its judgment it was not advisable to recommend such a transfer. Its reasons for coming to such a conclusion were duly published in full in *The Messenger* of December 10th, 1884.

Rev. S. R. Bridenbaugh, Synodical Editor of Pittsburgh Synod, having resigned that position in consequence of his removal from the bounds of the Synod, and his resignation being accepted by the Board, Rev. D. B. Lady, of Cullsville, Pa., was elected to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting of the Synod. It will, therefore, devolve upon that Synod to fill, by election, this vacancy then occurring.

Rev. J. H. Dubbs, D.D., offered his resignation as Editor of "The Guardian," to take effect at the end of the present year. The Board, with regret, accepted the same, and unanimously elected Rev. H. M. Kieffer, of Easton, Pa., his successor.

The term of James T. Reber, Trustee from the Synod of the United States, and that of Rev. J. W. Love, of the Synod of Pittsburgh, expiring at the end of the present year, the Synods named will therefore have to fill the vacancies that will thus occur in the Board at their coming annual sessions.

CHAS. G. FISHER, *Secretary.*
Philadelphia, Pa., 907 Arch St., Sept. 14, 1885.

GEO. GELBACH, *President.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION.

The Standing Committee on Publication submitted its report, during the session of Monday evening, which was received, amended and then adopted, as follows:

Your Committee on Publication begs leave to offer the following report:

The only paper placed in our hands is the Report of the Publication Board of the Reformed Church. From this document we learn that the financial condition of the Board has somewhat improved; that while the liabilities have increased \$1300, the actual indebtedness has been reduced \$500.

We further learn that there is a very large amount due on book and periodical accounts, which is the source of great loss. We learn, also, that the Board did not see its way clear to adopt the plan of placing the interest for a consideration in private hands. To meet the interest indebtedness, the Synods are asked to

make provision annually, by collections or otherwise. We, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following:

Resolved, That, in our judgment, the business of the Publication Board should be reduced to a cash basis as soon as possible.

Resolved, That the Churches of this Synod be requested to take up a collection during the year for the relief of the Reformed Church Publication Board.

Respectfully submitted,

C. U. HEILMAN, *Chairman.*

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLICATION BOARD AND TERMS OF SERVICE.

Elder G. S. Griffith,	2 years.
Elder H. Wirt	1 "

The Stated Clerk was instructed to have two thousand copies of the Acts and Proceedings of the present sessions duly authenticated, printed, and to distribute the Minutes among those entitled to receive them.

ARTICLE XXI.

MISCELLANEOUS.

During the session of Thursday afternoon the Standing Committee on Nominations presented its report, which was received and adopted. The Stated Clerk was instructed to have a sufficient number of tickets of the nominations printed for the use of the Synod, and the election was made the order of the day for the opening of Saturday morning's session. At the time designated the election took place. Revs. J. A. Wickert, C. S. Slagle and Elders J. Hoffline and C. T. Keefer were appointed tellers, who received the ballots, counted the votes and furnished the President with the result of the election. This result will be found elsewhere, in connection with the action of the Synod on the Reports of the Board of Education, Regents of Mercersburg College, Visitors and Trnstees of the Theological Seminary, Missions, Trustees of Synod and Sunday-school.

In presenting the tickets to the Synod, the Stated Clerk reported that Mr. M. A. Foltz, editor and proprietor of *Public Opinion*, had generously printed the tickets without making a charge for so doing, whereupon the following resolution was moved and adopted:

Resolved, That the Synod returns its hearty thanks to Mr. M. A. Foltz, editor and proprietor of *Public Opinion*, for his kindness in printing the tickets of Synod free of charge.

The Standing Committee, under items 3 and 4, reported a statement of the workings and finances of Bethany Orphans' Home, at Womelsdorf, Pa., during the past year, and also an annual report of the Board of Directors of St. Paul's Orphans' Home, at Butler, Pa. These items were referred for consideration to a special committee, composed of Revs. W. Goodrich, L. G. Kremer and Elder J. Feeser. This committee subsequently submitted the following report, which was received and adopted, namely:

Your Committee, to whom were referred the papers relating to the Orphans' Homes at Womelsdorf and at Butler, would report that we have examined the reports of Bethany Orphans' Home, at Womelsdorf, and also that of St. Paul's, at Butler, Pa., and found much in them encouraging to this Synod and the Church in general.

From the report of Bethany Orphans' Home, under the superintendence of Rev. D. B. Albright, we learn there have been under his care during the year, seventy orphans, supported at an average cost of \$100 per year. Some of these, having become of proper age, have been discharged and sent out on the mission of life, leaving sixty-five at present in the Home. This will require the sum of \$6,500 for current expenses of the year. But, besides this, there are more orphans knocking at the door, and the Board is anxious to receive them, and can accommodate date in their commodious building one hundred or more. The Board reports the debt reduced to \$1,300 during the year.

The home at Butler, Pa., under the care of Rev. P. C. Prugh, has fifty orphans, sustained at \$100 per year, also. The current expenses for the year will be about \$4,300. What is remarkable, not a case of sickness in this family of fifty has occurred during the year requiring the attendance of a physician. They report a debt of \$7,000 resting upon their Home, and which challenges the charity of those who love the orphan, and have been blessed of God with the means for their relief. The mental and moral, as well as the physical interests, of these homeless lambs of God's fold have been well cared for, the fruits of which have been seen as these orphans are confirmed into the Christian Church, and go out on the mission of life as useful men and women.

Your Committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That Bethany Orphans' Home, at Womelsdorf, and St. Paul's Orphans' Home, at Butler, be commended to all our pastors and congregations as worthy of our Christian alms, and that each pastor, as far as possible, do something for the support of these Homes, and that the attention of the several Classes be called to the subject.

Respectfully submitted,

W. GOODRICH, *Chairman.*

On Saturday afternoon the authorities of Mercersburg College invited the Synod to visit the college and town after which it is called, made famous in the annals of American theology by Revs. Drs. Nevin and Schaff forty years ago. Rev. Dr. Aughinbaugh having obtained from Colonel T. B. Kennedy, President of the C. V. R. R. and a fellow-alumnus of Marshall College, the generous offer of a special train, free of charge, to convey the members to and from Mercersburg, the invitation and offer were thankfully accepted by the Synod, and Monday afternoon was agreed upon to make the trip. At 1 o'clock on Monday afternoon the special train, consisting of an engine and four passenger coaches, left for Mercersburg, the Synod going in a body. The afternoon was delightful and the trip most pleasant. After spending between two and three hours in making speeches and in visiting the buildings and the grounds of the College, the Synod returned to Chambersburg.

The special committee, to whom certain resolutions on the subject of divorce had been referred by the last annual meeting for consideration, with instructions to report to the present meeting of Synod, submitted the following report, which was received and adopted, with the exception of the third resolution, namely :

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DIVORCE.

To the Reverend Synod of the Potomac :

DEAR BRETHREN:—Your Committee, appointed a year ago to report at this meeting on the subject of divorce, respectfully submit the following for your consideration. At the last annual meeting of Synod in Hanover the following resolutions, after some discussion, were referred to your committee for careful consideration, and with instructions to report upon the same at the present meeting of Synod.

1. *Resolved*, That the alarming increase of the number of divorces, granted by the civil courts on unscriptural grounds, is an evil that strikes at the very foundations of society.

2. *Resolved*, That this Synod calls the solemn attention of our people to the requirements of God's word, which recognizes adultery alone as a valid ground of divorce.

3. *Resolved*, That our pastors be directed to govern themselves accordingly, in performing marriage cereinonies, and our consistories in exercising discipline.

Your committee have carefully considered the important subject embraced in the foregoing resolutions. There can be no question or dispute in regard to the fact that there is an alarming increase in the number of divorces granted by the civil courts on unscriptural grounds. Especially does this statement hold good with regard to the condition of affairs in the Commonwealth within whose bounds we are now convened. Instead of one only valid ground of divorce, the laws of Pennsylvania have recognized *eight* for some years past. As a consequence, there has been an alarming increase in the number of divorces granted by our civil courts. In New York the divorce legislation approaches more closely to the Scripture standard, and as a consequence, the applications to have the marriage bond dissolved are fewer. Parties frequently emigrate from the Empire to the Keystone State for a few months in order to get rid of their marriage obligations on trivial grounds, through the laxity of our laws and customs. The shame and disgrace and countless evils that formerly attached to Indiana and other States in consequence of loose, unscriptural regulations on the subject of divorce, have been largely transferred to the Keystone Commonwealth. While other States, from a sense of decency and self-preservation, were making their laws more stringent and Scriptural, and were reaping corresponding advantages, Pennsylvania has traveled the downward road until she has become a City of Refuge for violators of the holy bonds of matrimony.

All this was foreseen and deprecated not only by Christian ministers, but by Christian statesmen, at the time the new Constitution was adopted, when the Convention deliberately rejected the amendment proposed by the Hon. William J. Baer, limiting the granting of absolute divorce to the sole ground of adultery. We quote an extract from the earnest and manly speech of this worthy elder of the Reformed Church before the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention a dozen years ago :

" You may permit husband and wife to live separately, as, under our divorce *a mensa et thoro* they now may do, if for any good reason it is impossible to live harmoniously together; but they shall continue to be one person, and the relation still existing, they are bound to fidelity to the marriage bond. But the bond itself, which is a part of their nature, you shall not destroy, nor permit it to be destroyed, so that the parties become disunited, with all the powers and immunities of ante-nuptial contract again attaching, including the reciprocal right of marrying again, except for one cause only, and that adultery.

" Now if this Convention wants to make terms with the devil in the body of the Constitution by adopting the licentious and infamous doctrine of marriage, which nature, God and Christianity unite in denouncing, then vote against this amendment, which announces the Christian and natural law doctrine, that marriage shall not be annulled except for that foul, unnatural, rope and hell-deserving crime of adultery.

" If, however, you are in earnest, if this Convention does really represent a Christian State, then embrace this amendment in the Constitution. We will thereby reflect the will of a vast majority of the people of this State—will make the fundamental law consistent with the natural and revealed law, as well as with itself.

" We will purify society; remove a stain from our fundamental law; will reflect honor upon the marriage state; will do justice to the pure wives and daughters of the Commonwealth; will assure them that the marriage bond is not a mere rope of sand, which may weaken with failing health and fading beauty. That having become one flesh by marriage, they have entered a perpetual union, extensive with the whole life, so mysteriously and truly united and made

one, that naught but death or the foul, unnatural, soul-destroying crime of adultery can dissolve it.

"Woman will thereby appreciate her true sphere in society; will fill the mission of her being; will realize that she is a queen in the family, and will there rule through love. Strong-minded women will disappear from the stage, and woman's rights, having been restored by conforming the civil to the natural and revealed law will not trouble a Constitutional Convention again.

"And we, as a State, will lead the van in a Reformation that no State in the Union can lead better, with more consistency or greater prospect of ultimate success, than this State of steady and conservative habits, founded by the immortal Penn."

Well would it have been for the honor and welfare of the Keystone Commonwealth if the advice of Judge Baer had been heeded and the Scriptural rule of divorce had been recognized and enforced as a fundamental provision of the organic law. The approach of the horrible brood of divorce suits that now claim a large part of the attention of civil courts, and bring grievous harm to society and untold misery upon families, would not rest as a foul blot upon the Keystone escutcheon. So great is the evil, and so fully recognized has the remedy of Judge Baer become, that the Governor of the State called the earnest attention of the law-makers to the subject in his recent message, and as a lay member and a committeeman of a judiciary of a sister denomination, he has lately signed a report which declares "that no divorce shall be recognized as lawful in the sight of God except for adultery," and which cautions ministers to be more circumspect henceforth in performing the marriage ceremony, lest they violate this correct principle of legislation. When statesmen and politicians are ready to acknowledge that the teachings of Christ and His Apostles, in regard to the sanctity of marriage and the ground of divorce, are wisest and best for the interests of society and the safety of the Commonwealth, it is high time that the Church should reinforce that sentiment by emphasizing and enforcing the teachings of God's Word as set forth so unmistakably by the blessed Master Himself. What those teachings are we have intimated, and the second resolution before us distinctly affirms. The Word of God recognizes *adultery* alone as a valid ground of divorce. This horrible crime alone affords justification for absolute divorce or the dissolution of the marriage bond itself. This and this alone furnishes the one, sole, extraordinary exception to the continuance of the marriage relation as an ordinance of the Almighty. This is the view of such men as Neander, Tholuck, Lange, Olshausen, Barnes, Wolsey and Nevin, J. W. Language could not be plainer than that in which our Saviour states the case in His Sermon on the Mount (see Matt. v. 32), and in the nineteenth chapter of the same gospel record of St. Matthew. Man and wife have become one by Divine appointment in the holy estate of matrimony. "What, therefore, God hath put together let not man put asunder." . . . "And I say unto you, whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery; and whosoever marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery." In Luke xvi. 18 and Mark x. 11, the indissolubility of the marriage bond is even more fully and more emphatically set forth without mention of the extraordinary exception stated in the record of St. Matthew. The crime of adultery was a capital offence in the days of our Saviour, and according to the requirements of the Mosaic law, the guilty party was condemned to death. This, of course, would set the innocent party free to enter upon lawful matrimonial relations. Absolute divorce or divorce *a vinculo matrimonii* is allowable only on the ground of adultery or fornication, and that only to the innocent party. The guilty party is bound by the marriage obligation during the life-time of the innocent party, who has been released by Divine permission owing to the sin of the guilty spouse. This distinction is sometimes overlooked both by civil and ecclesiastical judicatories, but it is a just and logical one, commended by a sound policy as well as sacred principle. (See Romans vii. 1-3.) A modified form of divorce or separation has been recognized in the legislation of both Church and State. For malicious cruelty, wilful desertion, etc., the married victim is allowed a divorce *a mensa et thoro* (from bed and board), but not with the right or privilege to get married again. St. Paul recognized the justice and propriety of this rule. (See 1 Cor.

vii. 10-15.) In the vast majority of cases this is the only form of divorce, or, more properly speaking, of separation, which the civil laws should tolerate. If people were taught by law and precept that marriage is a union for life, and that, except for adultery there can be no divorce or possibility of re-marriage, even to the innocent party, and that there can be no re-marriage at any time for the guilty offender, there would not be one-fourth the number of applications for divorce that disgrace the criminal records of this and other Commonwealths.

This surely is a consummation devoutly to be sought after and this would bring our legislation into accord with Bible principles. Those principles, as we have sought to enunciate them, are not merely arbitrary enactments or prudential arrangements. They are based upon the eternal fitness of things, and any violation of their provisions must bring serious harm to the body politic. The family is the unit of society, the type of both Church and State. Any law or sentiment that weakens the family bond, that lowers the idea of matrimony, is fraught with evil to the community. Social chaos must soon follow any diversion of the Divine arrangement. The marriage question is more important than any mere question of politics. The family is more fundamental to human character and human happiness than the State itself. Neither the temperance nor any other question of humanitarian reform can compare in importance with the one now under consideration. The family is the foundation of everything in Church and State, and if the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do? Easy divorce, unscriptural views on the subject of marriage, will assuredly undermine and destroy the foundations. All history proclaims this solemn truth with trumpet tongue. Five hundred years elapsed in the better days of the Roman Commonwealth before a single divorce was granted. Frequency of divorce for trivial causes at a later age went hand in hand, both as cause and effect, with the decay of public and private virtue. A distinguished writer observes: "Toward the end of the (Roman) Republic then things had reached this pass in regard to divorce that public opinion had ceased to frown upon it, that it could be initiated by husband or wife with almost equal freedom; that there was a ready consent of both parties to the separation in the prospect of marrying again, and that this facility of divorce was open to all classes who could contract lawful marriage." The result was that profligacy and licentiousness increased until the foundations of public and private virtue were destroyed. The Republic soon perished. It gave way to the empire, whose career of military despotism, anarchy and licentiousness was ended by the Teutonic tribes of the North, who cherished feelings of deep reverence for the marriage relation. In this, as in other respects, history confirms the testimony of the Divine record, and proves conclusively that righteousness (such as the Bible enjoins) exalteth a nation but sin is the reproach and ruin of any people.

Surely it is high time for Christian people to make their influence felt as the salt of the earth and the light of the world, to purify the public morals and enlighten the public conscience on this important subject of divorce. Laws are educational, and people frequently imagine that they have a moral right to do whatever the civil law allows or sanctions. Christians are individually and collectively responsible before God for permitting the statute books to be polluted with enactments that virtually set a premium upon vice and immorality. They have it in their power, under our representative of self-government, to correct these abuses, to cleanse the Augean stables and introduce a new and better era in the history of the Republic. Love of country and fidelity to Jesus Christ alike prompt us to engage earnestly in this work.

In view of all that has been set forth in the preceding report, your committee heartily recommend the adoption of the three resolutions which we have had under consideration and which are given in the first part of this report. We also recommend the adoption of the following additional resolution, viz.:

Resolved, further, That in cases of absolute divorce granted on the Scriptural ground of adultery, only the innocent party is entitled to enter anew upon marriage relations.

Respectfully submitted,

CYRUS CORT,
S. N. CALLENDER.

Chambersburg, Oct. 21, 1885.

A motion was made to strike out the third resolution in the foregoing report, upon which the chairman of the committee required the *Ayes* and *Nays* to be recorded, which resulted as follows:

Ayes: J. O. Miller, R. Smith, A. Wanner, A. Spangler, I. S. Weisz, F. J. Sauerber, A. F. Dreisbach, C. A. Shultz, A. Raab, J. Stouch, G. Hollinger, B. Seitz, E. R. Eschbach, W. Goodrich, J. T. Rossiter, A. C. Geary, W. Rupp, M. L. Firor, S. M. Hench, C. F. Sontag, A. S. Weber, L. F. Zinkham, H. Ditzler, J. Cronise, P. W. Shafer, W. A. Hagerman, P. G. Smith, John L. Reifsneider, J. Koutz, J. T. Motter, F. Warner, G. S. Griffith, J. Hassler, F. F. Bahner, W. H. Herbert, J. W. Knappenberger, C. Metz, C. Wieke, C. T. Keefer, I. H. Keefer, D. M. B. Shannon, S. Hoeftich, J. A. Hoffheins, B. R. Carnahan, B. F. Bausmann, J. C. Bowman, T. J. Barkley, H. Wirt, J. Feeser, I. H. Brinkerhoff, W. R. H. Deatrich, U. H. Heilman, J. M. Mickley, M. H. Groh, D. Sheaffer, S. Crist, J. B. Shulenberger, H. Wetzel, G. Hoobaugh, E. N. Kremer, J. D. Miller, I. N. Pieghel, C. S. Slagle, E. S. Hassler, N. F. Peters, C. J. Musser, C. W. Summey, H. Beckley, I. K. Little, Joshua L. Reifsneider, H. C. Ritchey, A. Dibert, J. Simth and D. Aurandt. *Ayes*, 74.

Nays: J. W. Santee, T. F. Hoffmeier, L. G. Kremer, E. R. Deatrick, A. B. Stoner, D. B. Seibert, M. Zimmerman, W. M. Deatrick, C. Cort, E. Summer, J. Hoffhine, G. Dice, S. L. Whitmore, E. Welty, H. J. Seibert, J. M. Nicely, J. Kretzing, H. Hilbush, J. H. Derr, F. S. Lindaman, F. M. McKeehan, W. I. Stewart, F. W. Brown, C. U. Heilman, D. S. Dieffenbacher, J. M. Shoemaker, and J. D. Aurandt. *Nays*, 27.

Non liquet: A. H. Kremer.

During the session of Saturday forenoon, the following resolutions were moved and adopted:

Resolved, That this Synod calls to grateful remembrance the labors of the Rev. Jacob Weymer, who organized the congregations at Chambersburg, Greencastle and Grindstone Hill, one hundred years ago (1784-85), and whose pioneer missionary labors extended over a great part of the territory of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia, now occupied by the Synod.

Resolved, That the President of Synod, who is one of the successors of Father Weymer, as regular pastor of the First Reformed Church of Hagerstown, Md., be and is hereby requested to make a short address at the Missionary Anniversary this evening, commemorative of the life and labors of this father of blessed memory.

During Thursday morning's session a motion was made and prevailed having reference to the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. The matter was referred to a special committee, consisting of Revs. J. O. Miller, C. Cort and W. Rupp. The committee, at the same session, presented the following report, which was received, amended, and adopted, as follows:

WHEREAS, To-day, October 22d, 1885, is the two hundredth anniversary of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, whereby the civil and religious liberties of the members of the Reformed Church in France were ruthlessly trampled under foot, and thousands of those faithful and heroic Christian people were compelled to suffer martyrdom; and WHEREAS, our Reformed brethren of France and many other parts of the Protestant world are holding commemorative services, calling to solemn remembrance the sufferings, the fortitude, and the heroic faith of those martyrs to the testimony of Jesus; therefore,—

Resolved, That we rejoice with our fellow Christians in France, and all other civilized countries, that the spirit of charity and Christian tolerance has in our day advanced to such an extent, that occurrences of the character here referred to, could no longer take place.

Resolved, That the Synod hold memorial services this afternoon at four o'clock, to be conducted by the President of Synod, who shall deliver an address relative to the event.

Resolved, further, That a copy of these proceedings be officially communicated to the Rev. Dr. Pressensé of Paris, with the request that he lay them before the Synodical authorities of the Reformed Church of France.

Respectfully submitted,

J. O. MILLER, *Chairman.*

At the hour designated, the Synod held memorial services with reference to the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. Hymn 36 of Hymns for the Reformed Church was sung. Prayer was offered up by the Rev. J. C. Clapp, after which an appropriate address was made by the President of Synod, followed by remarks by one or two of the members of Synod. The Synod then joined in singing Hymn 34 of Hymns for the Reformed Church; the last stanza of the hymn, being a doxology, was sung as such, after which the President pronounced the benediction. The services were solemn and impressive.

Item 7 of the Report of the Committee on Overtures was referred to a special committee, consisting of Revs. J. O. Miller, J. H. Derr and Elder P. W. Shafer, for consideration. Subsequently, the committee submitted the following report, which was received and adopted:

Your committee, to whom item 7 of the Report of the Committee on Overtures was referred, begs leave to offer the following report:

In the communication under consideration, this Synod is informed that the Pennsylvania Synod of the Presbyterian Church has appointed a permanent committee for the promotion of the better observance of the Lord's Day, consisting of thirteen ministers and laymen, and that this "committee desires to secure the co-operation in this work of their beloved brethren of the Reformed Church in Pennsylvania," and hence also to this end the appointment of a similar committee on the part of this body, with which said Presbyterian Committee may correspond, in furtherance of the important object proposed.

We recommend the adoption of the following action:

Resolved, That we heartily sympathize with our beloved brethren of the Presbyterian Church in the aims and purposes set forth in its courteous and Christian letter.

Resolved, That this Synod cheerfully accedes to the desire for the appointment of a committee for the purpose of correspondence, and that such a committee, consisting of seven members, be appointed.

Resolved, That said committee be instructed to send at least two of its members to the proposed meeting, to be held in Harrisburg, Pa., on the first Wednesday of May next.

Resolved, That the Stated Clerk be instructed to furnish the Secretary of the Presbyterian Committee with an official copy of this action, together with the names and addresses of our committee, to be appointed. Respectfully submitted,

J. O. MILLER, *Chairman.*

The President appointed Revs. J. O. Miller, A. H. Kremer, I. S. Weisz, W. R. H. Deatrich, Cyrus Cort, J. B. Shontz and J. M. Mickly, as the committee called for in the action.

On Thursday morning a telegram from the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Pennsylvania, then holding a State Convention in Huntingdon, Pa., was received, couched in the following words: "First Chronicles, nineteenth chapter and thirteenth verse." The Synod responded by sending the following dispatch, in return: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."—Rev. xxii. 21.

An order on the Treasury was made to pay the expense of the telegram sent.

Item 9 of the Report of Committee on Minutes of Classes was referred to a special committee for consideration, consisting of Revs. J. W. Santee, F. J. Sauerber and Elder G. S. Griffith. The committee presented the following report, which was received and adopted, to wit:

The committee, to which was referred item 9 of the Report on Minutes of Classes, requesting the Synod to consider the question of affording relief to superannuated and disabled ministers, so as to furnish them sufficient to live, if in need, as a reward of a life devoted to the Master's service, and not as a mere charity, would report, that we have given as much attention to the matter as the limited time at our disposal would allow, and that, as the result, we are deeply impressed with the importance of the subject and the magnitude of its claims upon us. Other churches are moving in the matter, and are doing much for the care of their indigent ministers and their widows. One denomination aims soon to be able to give 400 dollars per year to their needy and disabled ministers. But we are doing comparatively nothing. It is true, we have a Society for the Relief of Ministers and their Widows, but its benefits are small and extend chiefly to those who are members, while, as we all can see, those who may be too poor to become members of this society are the very persons who most need help. In view of all this, your committee recommend that the subject be committed to a special committee to take the whole matter into consideration, and, if possible, report a plan at the next annual meeting of the Synod.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. SANTEE, *Chairman.*

The special committee called for consists of Revs. J. O. Miller, F. J. Sauerber and J. H. Derr.

Revs. E. R. Deatrick, W. I. Stewart and C. Cort were, on Tuesday evening, constituted a committee to aid the press reporters in reporting the proceedings of the Synod for the daily papers of Chambersburg, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

Just before final adjournment, the committee reported that they had discharged the duty assigned them. The members of the Synod were convinced that the duty had been so much better performed than hitherto, that a vote of thanks was returned to the committee and the press reporters, for the excellent manner in which the work had been done.

On Thursday afternoon the Rev. Dr. Edgar, President of Wilson Female College, located at Chambersburg, extended a cordial invitation to the Synod, either in a body or individually, to visit said institution. The invitation was accepted, and a committee, consisting of a minister and an elder from each Classis represented on the floor of Synod, was appointed, who visited the College on Monday morning, and reported their visit a pleasant one.

Instead of making the customary assessment to defray the incidental expenses of the Synod, the Treasurer was authorized to pay over to the *pastor loci* twenty-five dollars for that purpose.

A Committee on Leave of Absence was appointed, consisting of Revs.

U. H. Heilman, N. H. Skyles and Elder S. Hoeflich; and, owing to sickness and other causes, the following members of Synod obtained leave of absence from day to day, to wit:

Wednesday forenoon, Rev. H. H. Sangree and Elder P. Dietz; *Friday forenoon*, Rev. A. B. Stoner and Elder H. Lady; *Friday afternoon*, Revs. C. F. Sontag and I. M. Motter; *Saturday forenoon*, Revs. J. T. Rossiter, A. Shulenberger, F. F. Bahner, and Elders M. Zimmerman, J. T. Motter, W. A. Hagerman, F. Warner, J. Cronise, John L. Reifsnider, S. F. Hargett and H. Beckley; *Saturday afternoon*, Revs. G. B. Russell, L. F. Zinkhan, and Elders J. B. Shulenberger, E. I. Zimmerman, J. Stonch and I. F. Brinkerhoff; *Monday forenoon*, Revs. S. S. Miller, C. Clever, C. S. Slagle, S. C. Long, H. Hilbush, H. Ditzler, H. W. Hoffmeier, and Elder O. H. Snyder; and *Monday afternoon*, Rev. F. S. Lindaman.

ARTICLE XXII.

MINISTERIAL NECROLOGY.

The Standing Committee on Ministerial Necrology, appointed at the last annual meeting of the Synod, submitted the following report, which was received and adopted, to wit:

Your Committee on Ministerial Necrology begs leave to report, That the lives of all our ministers have been graciously preserved during the past year, which is a matter for devout thankfulness to the Great Head of the Church.

Respectfully submitted,
I. S. WEISZ, *Chairman.*

ARTICLE XXIII.

RESUMPTION AND CLOSE.

The following resolutions were moved and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Synod of the Potomac tenders its hearty thanks to the pastor and members of the Reformed Churches of Chambersburg and other kind citizens of the place, who have so hospitably entertained us during our present annual sessions, and that we implore the richest blessings of the Lord upon them in all the relations of life.

Resolved, That the *pastor loci* be requested to read the foregoing action to his congregations on next Lord's Day.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Synod be extended to Miss R. H. Shively, the organist of the congregation, for her kindness in presiding at the organ during the sessions of the Synod.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Synod are hereby returned to the Cumberland Valley and Western Maryland Railroad Companies for the favor of excursion rates of fare to the members of Synod passing over said roads.

Resolved, That the special thanks of the Synod be returned to Colonel T. B. Kennedy, President of the Cumberland Valley Railroad, for his generous courtesy in furnishing a special train, free of cost, to convey the members of Synod to and from Mercersburg, where many of the members of the Synod received their literary and theological education.

The Synodical roll was then called, and no one was found absent without permission.

The Minutes were then read finally, and approved, and ordered to be engrossed.

ARTICLE XXIV.

ADJOURNMENT.

The following was adopted during the session of Monday forenoon, namely:

Resolved, That when the Synod adjourns finally, it be to meet in Annual Sessions in the Reformed Church of Mercersburg, Franklin County, Pa., on Tuesday evening, October 5th, A.D. 1886, at 7 o'clock.

The Synod, by resolution, had previously ordered the next annual meeting to be a delegated Synod.

The Synod adjourned, finally, on Monday evening at 9:30 o'clock, October 26th, with repetition of the Apostles' Creed, uniting in the Lord's Prayer, singing a doxology, and the Apostolic Benediction by the President.

J. S. KIEFFER, *President.*

WM. M. DEATRICK, *Stated Clerk.*

Official Copy from the Original Minutes.

WM. M. DEATRICK, *Stated Clerk.*

STATISTICAL REPORTS.
CLASSES OF ZION.

Fetal, 11.

* Preaching places.

CLASSIS OF MARYLAND.

POST-OFFICE ADDRESS.

* Statistics included in Taneytown charge.

CLASS OF MERCERSBURG.

CLASSIS OF VIRGINIA.

MINISTERS.	CHARGES.	POST-OFFICE ADDRESS.																
		Conn'ts.	Members.	Baptisms	Udecongr'd.	Inf'ts.	Adults.	Communi-	Confirmed.	Communi-	Debts.	S. Schools.	S. Schols.	for Min'rty.	Pbmt's.	Pbmt's.	Pbmt's.	Contributions.
John C. Hensell, Henry St. Jno. Rinker, Sam'l N. Callender, D. D.,	Superannuated, Lorettsville, Mt. Crawford, Without charge,	1 128 2 200	95 109	5 2	4 10	1 175	2 2	76 21	2 2	1 1	37 90	\$85 00 205 00	\$525 00 853 00	Mt. Crawford, Rockingham Co., Va. Lorettsville, Loudon do	do	do	do	do
Joseph S. Loose, Andrew J. Bowers, John A. Hoffheins, Henry Talheim, F. E. Vandersloot,	Martinsburg, Edenburg, Superannuated, Rockingham, Winchester,	1 263 4 207 3 264 3 138 2 157	196 124 9 8 59	9 8 4 5 7	1 1 22 3 1	11 10 28 21 2	13 10 16 2 117	202 190 252 212 129	4 6 2 1 1	1 6 1 4 1	160 42 90 2 80	382 00 75 00	1282 00 800 00	Martinsburg, Edenburg, Shenandoah Co., Va. do	do	do	do	do
Samuel L. Whitmore, Elias Welty, M.D., Vaeant, Timberville, Mill Creek,	Harrisville, Harrisonburg, Timberville, Shepherdstown, Woodstock,	2 141 2 141 3 145 2 137 2 193	101 6 61 8 3	101 6 8 4 3	2 2 9 2 1	2 2 9 2 1	2 2 9 2 1	98 133 133 98 185	4 3 1 2 1	1 2 2 1 4	65 30 40 102 154	276 00 142 00 87 00 125 00 180 00	768 00 390 00 400 00 125 00 582 00	Herndon, Fairfax Meyerhoeffer's Store, Rock'm do Winchester, Tom's Brook, Shenandoah Co., Va. Timberville, Rockingham do	do	do	do	do
George A. Whitmore, Benjamin F. Bausmann, Alpha K. Kline, Vaeant,	Middlebrook,	3 211 2 2187	168 1298	6 72	3 35	2 105	3 43	1805	36 3	3 536	1158	2 \$1567 00	\$7775 00	W. V. a. W. V. a. W. V. a. W. V. a.	do	do	do	do

Ministers, 14.

CLASSIS OF NORTH CAROLINA.

CLASSIS OF GETTYSBURG.

MINISTERS.	CHARGES.		Contributions.		POST-OFFICE ADDRESS.				
	Conns.	Members.	Adults	Inf'ts.	Pur.	Co.	Pur.	Co.	
William K. Zieber, D. D.	Without charge,								Pa.
Jacob D. Zehring,	"								do
Moses Kieffer, D. D.,	"								do
John Kretzing,	Christ Church,	3 575	400	27	21	7	570	12	13 2 150
David U. Wolff,	Abbottstown,	3 467	290	25	26	8	445	9	6 17 2 176
Henry Hilbush,	Second Hanover,	3 425	250	28	34	37	365	1	6 3 250
David N. Dittmar,	Littlestown,	1 241	213	13	14	9	210	1	2 1 160 1
Joshua H. Derr,	East Berlin,	4 340	179	12	1	8	270	3	14 3 100
John C. Bowman,	First Hanover,	1 235	125	11	1	3	10	263	9 4 1 220
Thomas J. Barkley,	Gettysburg,	2 345	198	22	2	14	16	310	5 6 2 209
Arendtsville,	Milton H. Sangree,	2 310	290	19	17	7	285	9	3 15 2 210
Lischey,	John H. Hartman,	4 615	419	66	1	57	16	517	11 16 4 274 1
Jefferson,	Franklin A. Guth,	3 675	500	50	6	67	27	640	10 15 3 185
Cashtown,	Henry H. Sangree,	3 292	269	16	1	16	13	217	10 14 3 165
Without charge,	Walter E. Krebs,								
	Total, 15.	29 4570	3133	289	22 2277	1574032	89	9 122 262095	2 2 4964 00 \$18966 00

MINISTERS.	CHARGES.		Contributions.		POST-OFFICE ADDRESS.				
	Conns.	Members.	Adults	Inf'ts.	Pur.	Co.	Pur.	Co.	
New Bloomfield,	Wm. R. H. Deatrich,	3 357	161	2	12 15	348	6	6 2 304	\$187 00
Zion's,	Francis S. Lindaman,	4 456	210	31	1 23	8 400	15	20 5 250	2 309 00
Without charge,	Geo. W. Glessner, D. D.,								
Mechanicsburg,	Uriah H. Heimly, *	2 250	150	4	1 3	200	11	11 3 2 175	96 00
Newburg,	J. Marion Mieky,	1 168	81	3	7	13 7	156 1	1 158 1	104 00
Carlisle,	Amos H. Kremer, D. D.,	1 243	165	9	1 11	10	220 8	5 1 170	114 00
Salphur Springs,	George E. Addams,	4 193	86	7	3 5 4	162 1	1 3 150	82 00	2760 00
Duncannon,	James R. Lewis,	3 131	125	6	3 7	100 3	1 2 140	80 00	963 00
Lindburg,	Milton H. Groh,	4 461	310	23	15 77	13 398	14 4 5 4	250 1 30	550 00
St. Andrew's Cong.,	Vacant,	1 23	20						Duncannon, Perry
	Total, 9.	23 2282	1308	99	29 145 67	2004 59	18 48 21 1429	3 1482 00	1490 00 Landisburg, do

* Resigned; resignation to take effect July 1, 1885.

CLASSIS OF CARLISLE.

CLASSIS OF JUNIATA:

Total, 20.

CLASSIS OF SAN FRANCISCO.

MINISTERS.	CHARGES.	Contributions.										POST-OFFICE ADDRESS.			
		Baptisms	Adults	Infpts.	Unconfir'd.	Confir'med.	Comunit-	Ents.	Brasures.	S. Schools.	S. Schols.	Benev'ts.	Purp's.	Gold'g.	
Julius Fuenteling,															San Francisco, California.
Conrad F. Waldecker,															San Francisco, California.
Eugene De Geller,															Dallas, Texas.
George Mechtersheimer,															Napa, California.
Daniel E. Schoedler,															Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
Lewis D. Leberman,															San Franiseo, California.
Total, 6.		4	185	165	42	20	14	125		6	3	147	\$55 00	\$1600 00	

NOTE.—The Committee on the State of Religion and Statistics having lost the Statistical Table of the San Francisco Classis, the statistics of said Classis, except the summary, are wanting.—*Stated Clerk.*

CLASSIS OF PORTLAND-OREGON.

MINISTERS.	CHARGES.	Contributions.										POST-OFFICE ADDRESS.				
		Baptisms	Adults	Infpts.	Unconfir'd.	Confir'med.	Certified.	Comunit-	Ents.	Brasures.	S. Schools.	S. Schols.	Benev'ts.	Purp's.	Gold'g.	
Portland,		3	140	160	34	4	24	19		6	2	95	2	\$20 00	\$630 00	Portland, Oregon.
Salem,		3	72	65	5	9	60	1	1	40	12	00		500 00	do	
Meridian,		1	45	44	5	7	8	30	2	1	30	4	00	285 60	Stafford, Clackamas Co., Oregon.	
Emmanuel,		1	30	40		17									West Union, Wash'gtn Co., do	
Seattle,		1	37	38	12	15	18	3	9	1	50			392 65	Seattle, Washington Territory.	
St. Peter's,		1	45	61	2	19	31		1	49	5	50		157 00	Oregon City, Oregon.	
Valparaiso,		1													Valparaiso, Chile, S. A.	
St. Johannes,*		1	17	26	2	1	6	10	3						St. Joseph, Michigan.	
Waldo Hills,*		1	16	14	11										New Era, Clackamas Co., Oregon	
		13	402	448	71	12	81	256	7	11	7	6	264 2	\$61 50	\$1965 25	

* Served by Pastor Lange.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

CLASSES.	Ministers.	Congregations.	Members.	Baptisms.	Contributions.										
					Adults.	Infants.	Certiificate.	Communicants.	Bread and Wine.	Names of Deacons.	Debts.	Sunday Schools.	Studies for the Congregations.	Studies for the Ministry.	
Zion's, -	-	-	3,959	2,527	338	68	248	55	3,092	39	114	39	2,928	\$1,451	
Maryland, -	-	-	6,684	4,489	462	31	337	190	5,700	109	198	48	4,994	7,333	
Mercersburg, -	-	-	2,694	1,358	154	51	147	99	2,962	62	72	20	1,918	1,984	
Virginia, -	-	-	2,187	1,298	28	72	35	43	1,805	36	5	36	1,158	1,174	
North Carolina, -	-	-	2,280	1,389	13	39	102	14	1,495	14	29	20	974	7,950	
Gettysburg -	-	-	4,576	3,133	289	22	277	157	4,032	89	9	122	26	4,964	
Carlisle -	-	-	2,252	1,308	99	23	145	67	2,004	59	18	48	21	1,429	
Juniata, -	-	-	47	4,714	3,173	264	36	260	123	4,060	107	76	89	40	3,074
San Francisco, -	-	-	4	185	42	165	42	20	14	125	11	6	3	147	2,414
Portland-Oregon, -	-	-	13	402	448	71	12	81	256	7	7	6	264	2	55
Total, 10 Classes, -	-	-	143	288	29,957	19,288	1,921	311	1,653	522	5	167	242	18,981	28
Synod of the United States, 10 Classes, -	213	451	74,079	44,667	6,503	420	4,215	1,427	59,197	822	10	393	2,375	523	47,205
Synod of Ohio, -	144	287	19,045	7,210	550	522	1,361	705	15,973	288	1	940	380	225	11,082
Synod of Pittsburgh, -	55	130	12,475	8,855	767	63	585	429	10,214	284	1	120	237	102	7,510
Synod of the Northwest, 9 Classes, -	115	156	14,074	10,457	1,203	15	758	669	10,499	243	22	258	339	139	8,375
German Synod of the East, 5 Classes, -	45	41	11,440	6,821	2,117	13	713	764	8,784	68	2	278	454	44	8,011
Central Synod, 4 Classes, -	68	115	15,967	10,792	1,217	34	789	495	12,151	157	30	268	423	99	9,169
Grand Total, 7 Dist' Synods; 53 Classes, -	788	1,468	177,073	108,090	14,583	1,378	10,745	3,335	140,749	2,384	71	2,424	4,934	1,374	114,087,560

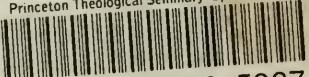
INDEX.

	<i>PAGE</i>
Absence, Leave of granted.....	63
Arrearages still unpaid.....	49
Catawba College, Action respecting.....	22
Children's Day Appointed.....	52
Classis of Japan, Formation Authorized.....	46
Communications Received.....	6
Contingent Fund, Assessments for.....	50
Divorce, Action on.....	57
Education, Report of Board.....	15
" Committee on.....	21
Election of Members of the several Boards of Synod.....	56
Finance, Report of Committee on.....	50
Foreign Missions, Report of Board of Commissioners for.....	45
Home Mission, Apportionment for.....	50
Mercersburg College, Report of Board of Regents.....	17
" Action concerning,.....	22
" Visit to made.....	57
Ministerial Necrology, Report of Committee on.....	64
Minutes of Classes, Report of Committee on.....	11
" Synod " ".....	8
" " " Stated Clerk on Publishing.....	53
" " " Publication ordered.....	56
Missionary Anniversary held.....	47
Missions, Report of Tri-Synodic Board.....	25
" " " " Superintendent of.....	26
" " " " Treasurer of.....	43
" " " Committee on.....	45
" " " Election of Superintendent.....	47
Orphans' Homes, Report of Committee on.....	56
Overtures, Report of Committee on.....	10
Publication Board, Report of the Reformed Church.....	53
" Report of Committee on.....	55
Religion, Report of Committee on State of.....	14
Religious Services, Report of Committee on.....	7
Representation of the Classes in Synod, Ratio of Adopted.....	52
Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, Two-Hundredth Anniversary of.....	61
Sabbath Observance, Action on.....	62
Standing Committees Appointed.....	5
Statistical Tables of the Classes.....	66
Sunday-School Board, Report of.....	51
Thanks, Resolutions of.....	64
Theological Professorship Endowment, Report of Committee on.....	23
Theological Seminary, Reports of Boards of Visitors and Trustees.....	17
" " Property, Transfer of to Synod.....	24
Treasurer of Synod, Annual Report of.....	47
Trustees of Synod, Annual Report of.....	50
Washington Mission Chapel Fund, Classes Delinquent in.....	46
Weymer, Rev. Jacob, Reference to Pioneer Labors of.....	61
Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Telegram from.....	62

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